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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2011

WEATHER FORECAST

Manila	Partly cloudy	Cebu	Partly cloudy
Baguio	Partly cloudy	Davao	Partly cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly cloudy	Iloilo	Partly cloudy
Legazpi	Partly cloudy	Zamboanga	Mostly cloudy
Puerto Princesa	Partly cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Mostly cloudy
Tacloban	Partly cloudy	General Santos	Mostly cloudy

Second FRONTPAGE

PCSO

6/42 LUZ-VIS-MIN
15 26 27 31 36 39
P3,308,160.60

SUPERLOTTO 6/49
24 28 42 46 47 49
P16,800,000.00

LOTTO TIPS! Text ON LOTTO <space> 6d6? to 2920

'Vizconde has crossed the line'

By Tina G. Santos

FORMER Sen. Freddie Webb yesterday challenged Lauro Vizconde to file charges if he has evidence to prove that his family had indeed offered P50-million "lobby money" to several Supreme Court justices for the acquittal of his son, Hubert, in the Vizconde massacre case.

"If he truly believes that his accusations are true, then I dare him to file the necessary charges," Webb said at a press conference.

He denied Vizconde's allegation, which he said was an act "outright lie and baseless from the truth."

"I would like to make for the record that neither I nor any member of my family offered a P50-million bribe to any of the justices," he said.

"It is irresponsible for Mr. Vizconde to peddle these vicious lies. We denounce for its baseless charges, which seriously undermine the integrity of our courts and has damaged the reputation of our justices, our courts and our family. Mr. Vizconde has crossed the line and he deserves the strongest censure from the Supreme Court for his reckless and untruthful accusations," Webb said.

And even if he had the money, Webb said there was no way that he would offer money to any member of the judiciary.

"No way. For a start, not a peso, hundred, thousand, much more P50 million," he said.

He maintained that Hubert was innocent of the 1991 rape-slayings of Carmela Vizconde and the murder of her mother Estrellita and younger sister Jennifer, for which he and five co-accused were jailed for 15 years until they were acquitted by the Supreme Court last December.

He said that for over 15 years, his family had fought the legal battle on the merits of the case and within the bounds of the law to prove Hubert's innocence because they believed in the justice system.

"I don't want to look myself in the mirror and say that my son was freed just because I spent for it. It's painful because people might think that I bought his acquittal," he said.

Webb said he initially had mixed thoughts about breaking the silence and that the Vizconde family decided he had to answer the accusations because "in our society, people usually think that silence is a sign of guilt."

"But I hope and I pray that this is the last time I'm talking about this because I have no time for this. It's really not worth my time," he said.

Webb also questioned why it took Vizconde five years to make the accusation, "and only after the Supreme Court had rendered a decision that was not in his favor."

"Looking a family down not give you a license to malign, to insult and make false accusations not only against me but also members of the judiciary," he said.

Vizconde had alleged that Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio had lobbied for the acquittal of Hubert. He said it was Chief Justice Reynato Puno who had told him so.

Vizconde also said that Associate Justice Jose Mendoza, when he was still an appellate judge in a few years ago, had told him that the Webbs had a P50-million "lobby money" to get Hubert acquitted.

He said Associate Justice Lucas Bersamin, at the time also an appellate justice, and Associate Court of Appeals Associate Justice Japar Dimaampao were in Manchu's chambers when Mendoza told him this.

All five justices have denied Vizconde's allegations. With Nikko Dizon

Vizconde, Jimenez absent from fast

By Cathy Yamsuan

WHERE was Lauro Vizconde on the second day of the three-day fast he organized along with other survivors of the People's Movement for Justice (PMJ)?

He was right at home, Vizconde told the Supreme yesterday.

Lauro Jimenez, meanwhile, founding chair of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) and 4 more Vizconde supporters, was also nowhere to be seen the past two days.

In a text message, Jimenez said he was in Naga City since Wednesday and planned to return to Manila today.

Vizconde said he would be at the front gate of the Supreme Court early this morning for the third and last day of the fast that will be broken tonight with a simple dinner on a food cart table.

Vizconde said policemen came to the Supreme Court gate early Wednesday morning to remind him and the other PMJ officers of an ordinance that limits gatherings in front of the court building from 6 p.m.

Vizconde noticed the justices for was not holding the fast to antagonize them, after they strongly announced him several weeks ago for his refusal to name the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals justices who had supposedly tipped him off to a lobby for the acquittal of Hubert Webb.

Early this week, Vizconde obliged the justices by revealing that it was Chief Justice Renato Corona who had tipped him. With a report from Antonette C. Andrade

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Chinese ZTE execs willing to testify in court

By Kristine L. Alave

EXECUTIVES of the ZTE Corp., the Chinese telecommunications firm involved in the controversial $329-million national broadband network (NBN) deal, are willing to testify in court about their dealings with government officials but are worried for their safety, according to deputy special prosecutor John C. C. Yuzuba.

Yuzuba said while Jakbonver Zoh Luzadis, who is supposed to be in contact with the Chinese officials, has assured the prosecutors that the two are willing to testify in the Sandiganbayan in the trial of former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri on abuse of office charges, he has yet to hold a meeting with them.

"We cannot force them," he said.

Yuzuba said the prosecution could not find the two Chinese officials and had asked Luzadis to contact them. "We cannot trace them," he said.

Luzadis, a former consultant of Neri, and Jose de Venecia III, a businessman who was himself interested in getting the contract for the broadband project, have accused former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the latter's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, and former elections chair Benjamin Abalos, et al, of allegedly receiving $130 million from ZTE Corp.

LOZADA

The project was intended to build a broadband network linking government agencies and local government units nationwide.

The Ombudsman has charged Neri with violation of the anti-graft law for allegedly conferring with Abalos on the NBN project, and for allegedly meeting with ZTE officials when the project was under assessment. Abalos is also facing similar graft charges.

At a Senate hearing in September 2007, Neri testified that Abalos offered him $200 million to approve the deal, confirming reports that the contract for the NBN project was tainted with corruption.

Yuzuba said state prosecutors would ask the Sandiganbayan, which is hearing the cases against Neri and Abalos, to issue subpoenas to the Chinese embassy in Manila for it to trace and summon the ZTE officials to testify.

Should the ZTE executives refuse to come to the Philippines to testify, prosecutors would go to China to get the witnesses' depositions, he said.

According to Yuzuba, the Chinese officials could bolster the prosecution's theory that some government officials took kickbacks from the deal.

The two officials were cited as the ones who gave "substantial money" to Abalos. De Venecia, who met the ZTE officials in China with Abalos in 2006 to discuss the possibility of partnering with them, testified that Abalos had received commissions from the Chinese firm.

In a hearing in the 5th Division yesterday, De Venecia said Abalos pressed the ZTE executives for "commissions" in order to get a favorable response from the Arroyo government.

De Venecia said Jun Yang had told him they already gave "substantial money" to Abalos.

Abalos, who resigned from his post in the wake of the scandal, admitted that he knew the ZTE officials but denied brokering the deal or accepting money from the Chinese firm.

Noynoy introduces new foreign secretary

PRESIDENT Aquino yesterday introduced his new—or fresh—"working" cupertino—foreign secretary by bringing him along to a hastily called news conference in Malacañang where the Chief Executive spoke about the government's plans for getting Filipinos out of conflict-torn Libya.

Former Ambassador to the UN Albert del Rosario stood behind the President.

"As soon as you release me, I'll be entering him into office," Mr. Aquino told reporters when had asked about the promise of the aforementioned Del Rosario.

The President later swore in Del Rosario as acting secretary of foreign affairs over Alberto Romulo.

Mr. Aquino told reporters he needed Del Rosario to be the minister facing Filipinos in Libya and some Middle East countries.

"Me and I, especially in this crisis, he'll be my lead person there on he should be aware of what's happening," the President said.

Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said Del Rosario's was appointed in acting capacity so he would not have to await confirmation by the Commission on Appointments but could hurdle down to work immediately.

In a statement later, Lacierda said Del Rosario's assumption of the foreign affairs portfolio came "in a time with many challenges." Christine O. Avendaño

Ad Congress goes to CamSur

THE 22ND PHILIPPINE Ad Congress (PAC) has announced that Camarines Sur (Canaro) will be the locale of the congress this year to be held from Nov. 16 to Nov. 19.

Held every two years, the Ad Congress, organized by the Advertising Board of the Philippines, brings together the country's top business, advertising and media titans.

Canaro was the bid by its governor, congressmen, tourism personnel, support from local government, accessibility by land and air, adequate infrastructure, fine accommodations, affordability, safety and security.

The Canaro Waterquarry Complex was also lauded for being the closest bid and "in" place to the economic zone for being the preferred location of top international sports competitions like the IronMan 70.3 and Ski and television outfits that featured the Survivor Fresno Series.

Ang-ang presidente Randy Prieto-Benavidez, chair of the 22nd PAC, expressed pride and to call local cities that participated in the bid. As the same time, she welcomed the decision as an excellent choice.

"We're very excited about Canaro because the Ad Congress has never been held there. It is in synergy with the 'Breakthrough!' theme for that year's Ad Congress and we will be able to help spur local tourism, which the industry is promoting," she said.

The group's organizing committees said it hoped to confront the congress with professionalism and efficiency, starting with the advertisement's now electronic system for reservations of room accommodation which ensures fair and non-preferential treatment of participants.

"It is our objective to rid the booking system of the 'pakiusap' (influential first!) method. So we would like to ask the support and cooperation of everyone as we implement this real-time reservation online, on a first-come, first-served basis," said Rhea Fernando, chair of the administrative committee.

She called on participants to kindly register online rather than go directly to the hotel "as this will allow us to guarantee the best rates and a smooth registration process." The special website for registration would be set up by April, she added.

Nikki Frieza Buencuchillo as the 22nd PAC is a formidable team composed of Abadfinda 'Technologies' Hans Roma Chua, vice chair; J. Bolmen's Amelie Kalaw and Ivy Lim's Jose Sy members of the oversight committee; Alaska Milk's Fernando, chair of the administrative committee; McDonald's Margot Torres, chair of the program committee; 3660's Mae Jo Zayne, chair of creatives; Boston's Marina Hamagsa, chair of finance; Starcom's Joanna Mojica, chair of ways and means; Philippine Star's Miguel Belmonte, chair of public relations and publicity; Manila Bulletin's Emil Sup III, chair of secretariat; Inquirer's Carmen Rabaya-gues, chair of internal affairs; 19Philippine Graphic's Ricky Abejon, chair of special events and Hyge Inquirer's Doris Bermudez, head of the secretariat.

The 22nd PAC this year is hosted by UBG, DISSIDIAR GMP and BAA. The Ad Congress will be officially launched during the first week of April.

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INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

BIR goes after Davao rice importer, 2 Makati sisters

By Marisol Ratcon

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue (BIR) yesterday brought criminal charges against a rice importer from Davao City and two businesswomen in Makati City for failing to settle their tax liabilities.

Charged before the Department of Justice (DOJ) for violation of the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC) of 1997 were Ocampo-based rice importer Teresita Te and her accountant Fedrerito Gomez.

Also facing a similar charge were sisters Erlinda and Irene Cheng, president and chief finance officer, respectively, of Midson Inc., a retail company in Guadalupe Nuevo, Makati City.

Internal Revenue Commissioner Kim Henares told reporters that Te refused to pay an outstanding tax liability of P9.867 million in 2009 despite repeated demand letters from the bureau.

"They were charged for their willful attempt to evade or defeat tax (payment) and failure to supply correct and accurate information," the BIR chief said.

Henares said Gomez, a certified public accountant, tried to justify his client's gross underdeclaration of income by supplying erroneous information. "Mr. Gomez is the fourth certified public accountant charged for violations of the NIRC," Henares told reporters.

She said that Te's company, Arvon Enterprises, was recorded by the National Food Authority to import cheap rice worth P384,837,587.00 in 2009.

However, the accused declared in her income tax return that her company's total purchase for that year was only P68,967,873.38, resulting in a misdeclaration of over P315.4 million.

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LTO SNAFU

Let Torres explain–Robredo

By Christine O. Avendaño

AT THE very least, Land Transportation Office (LTO) Chief Virginia Torres should have explained the 400 pieces before signing the registration papers of a Mitsubishi Pajero in 2009 because it was clear that there was something wrong with the documents, acting Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo said yesterday.

This became the basis for a case of falsification of documents being filed against Torres.

Speaking to reporters in Malacañang following a local government forum presided over by President Aquino, Robredo said Torres should be given the "benefit of due process" and explain what happened.

Robredo said the LTO should conduct an internal investigation to determine culpability and Torres' liability would "depend on how the record explains (that)."

"Because it's more clear the documents had problems and if there is someone to be held liable, she should be determined, whether it's her fault or the people below her," Robredo said.

He said he saw the documents Torres signed when she was the LTO chief director in Iriga City, "and I have doubts that she reviewed them thoroughly."

Robredo said Torres may likely signed the papers under a presumption of regularity since the papers had gone through her staff before her.

Torres may also have been "confused" about signing the documents since the vehicle had been registered a number of times from the time of her predecessor to Jaime, Lorenzo Lladlad, Robredo said.

"And inasmuch as the vehicle was not flagged as a hijacked vehicle and was given clearances by the Highway Patrol Group (HPG), she probably thought it was OK, but the problem was the documents was tampered with," he said.

Told that Torres blamed the LTO for clearing the SUV before she signed the registration papers, Robredo said the HPG-cleared Pajero because it was not on the list of stolen vehicles.

"The issue here is that the serial number of a motorcycle was used (for the Pajero)," he said.

Robredo also lashed Torres' assertion that a demolition job was being conducted against her, saying that the Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Justice and Philippine National Police were "not part of any demolition job."

"We're just presenting facts and evidences," he said.

The HPG, meanwhile, said the LTO failed to implement the anti-carnapping law when it allowed the registration of the Pajero.

In a text message to the Inquirer, HPG director Chief Supt. Leonardo Espina said the job of the HPG was only to check if a vehicle was on its list of carnapped vehicles.

"It is true the Department stated so. HPG issued the document in 2009. Section 6-d Republic Act 6539 (Anti-Carnapping Law) states that 'If the motor vehicle or any of its unaltered parts are to thus be for jet carnapped or under stolen vehicle patrol, the PNP shall forthwith issue a certificate of detention.' This is the only mandate as provided by law to be performed by the PNP through the HPG," Espina said.

With a report from Alexis Pajas

MONTAGUT

Motorist group sues Stradcom

By Marlon Ramos

AN ALLIANCE of motorists' rights advocates and transport groups yesterday filed criminal charges against officials of Stradcom Corp., the information technology provider of the Land Transportation Office (LTO).

In his letter-complaint to Justice Secretary Leila de Lima, William Oliveros Jr. of the Road Users Protection Advocates (Rupa) accused Stradcom of unlawfully importing and collecting fees from vehicle owners.

Oliveros argued that the collection of such fees was not included in "build-own-operate (BOO) contract that Stradcom had in its current president Cesar Quintelino, entered into with the LTO and that it was tantamount to plunder.

"There are many other unreasonable transgressions, misdeeds and violations... that only thorough and exhaustive investigation will reveal," Oliveros said in his two-page letter.

He said most of the irregularities of Stradcom "are traced to their altered records/charges."

According to Oliveros, a review conducted by the LTO showed that Stradcom had already collected P1.270 billion in interconnectivity fees from private-sector testing centers since 2002.

He said the IT firm also amassed more than P1 billion in interconnectivity fees from the authentication of insurance coverage for vehicles being registered with the LTO.

"These collections are not part of the original stakeholders and undertakings in the contract... These are amounts for the coffers of the (Stradcom) for plunder," Oliveros said.

Oliveros said Stradcom has also refused to comply with the order of the Commission on Audit and the Supreme Court to refund the P81 million it collected from the controversial radio frequency identification (RFID) project in 2009.

He lamented that Quintelino has also failed "to sign the conforming letter that would permit the bank to transfer" of the money collected from RFID.

Stradcom Corp. denied the allegations, saying it had to charge additional interconnectivity fees from insurance companies and PITCs because these were not covered by its original contract with the LTO.

In a related development, according to Stradcom spokesperson Margaux Salcedo, covered only the registration records of license holders and vehicles. "Transaction only," added this to its services, upon the directive of the LTO, Salcedo said.

"Please note that Stradcom does not charge... interconnectivity services from the public but from the private offices requiring interconnectivity like insurance companies that are required to be connected to LTO," she said.

She added that the benefits of interconnectivity also the motorists, the same. The LTO interconnectivity projects were acquired by LTO and Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) because they are essential to address just problems in the land transportation.

These include the proliferation of fake third party liability insurance policies and fake certificates of emission compliance. Stradcom's systems have effectively solved these problems at the smallest cost to the public, Salcedo said. With a report from Paolo Montalvilla

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Euro aid misused, says envoy

SOME of the European Union development aid money was misused in the past, according to the new EU ambassador.

EU Ambassador Guy Ledoux, who assumed the post only last Feb. 21, made the disclosure in his first-ever press conference in Manila yesterday.

The ambassador clarified that the irregularities "happened in the past" but would not provide details.

Ledoux, who met here with the EU for 21 years, said the 27-member organization had "very straight auditing mechanisms."

'Recovery orders'

EU accounts and development aid projects are regularly checked by independent auditors, he said.

And when EU money is not spent the way it should be spent, the agency issues what is called "recovery orders," he said.

"We ask the beneficiary to return the money," said Ledoux.

In a statement he issued after the press conference, Ledoux clarified that "issuing a recovery order does not imply that there has been mismanagement of funds".

"I can simply be a consequence of misincorporation of our complex financial rules, or in most cases, a request to return unused funds," he explained.

He said EU grants and other financial aid are safeguarded by a set of specific rules and regulations.

"Being fully aware of the uniqueness and complexity of our rules and wishing to support an optimal implementation, we have started to provide financial and contractual guidance to better familiarize beneficiaries of EU funds with these rules," he said.

One of Ledoux's priorities in Manila is the development of an EU-Philippines dialogue on the framework of the soon-to-be signed Partnership and Cooperation Agreement.

The agreement will come into force only after said inaction by the Philippine Congress and the European Parliament. "[so] we should start to develop our dialogues along the lines defined in the PCA," he said.

Last Monday, Ledoux, who is from Rosenburg, France, presented his credentials to President Aquino.

In November 2010, the EU announced that it would provide the Philippines with P4.3 billion in development assistance over the next three years to help the country meet its Millennium Development Goals.

The brings to P70 billion total EU development aid to the Philippines in the past 30 years.

Jerry E. Esplanada

LRT, MRT fare hikes deferred

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE GOVERNMENT plans to push through with the fare hike at Metro Manila's train lines this year, but the implementation has been delayed to give way for additional consultations.

The DOTC approved on yesterday the restructuring of Light Rail Transit (LRT) and Metro Rail Transit (MRT).

LRT Authority (LRTA) spokesman Hernando Cabrera said the fare was deferred in effect for additional consultations with the Land Trans. portation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB).

He said under its charter, the LRTA is required to consult with the LTFRB, which can only make recommendations but not control the fares, before any adjustment is implemented.

Cabrera said the revised fare scheme would also have to be published in a news paper 15 days before the implementation. The DOTC originally planned to have the fare hike by the beginning of next month—a target that is now impossible to hit.

Cabrera declined to speculate as to when the fare hike could be implemented, saying it would depend on how fast the consultations with the LTFRB go.

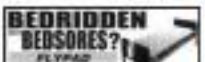
Under the new fare scheme, passengers of the LRT lines 1 and 2 will have to shell out a boarding fee of P11. They will also be charged another P1 for every kilometer.

However, single-journey tickets will be sold to only P15, P20 and P30 depending on distance. This means that short trips of about four kms will cost P15, five to nine kms will cost P20 and P30 for trips longer than this.

The discounts were chosen to ensure the fare gouging of change to passengers and discourage a fare turnover at the line.

Those that buy P100 stored value (SV) tickets will be able to use the full value of their tickets.

But on the LRT line 1 it will cost the maximum of P50 for the entire 20-kilometer line. (From Baclaran to Roosevelt) while the LRT line 2 will have a ceiling of P25 for 14 kilometers (from Recto to Santolan).



Singson gets 18 months, plans to quit House

From page A1

ben resigning.

Singson was moved out a jail term of one year and four months for bringing 6.67 grams of cocaine into the southern Chinese territory on July 11, 2010, and an additional two months for the two tablets of the prohibited narcotic "Ecstasy" he was found to have taken in the compound's guilty plea. His "positive character," his clear criminal record, and his being a member of the House of Representatives.

It was an ironic twist to the political career of the lawmaker who a few years ago filed a bill in the House, demanding illegal drugs as one of society's most predatory evils. (See **What Went Before** chapter on this page.)

Full-term grace

Sin noted that Singson "has virtually everything that every man would want to have."

"Being an educated man, he should know very well the harm of illegal drugs and should have sought treatment immediately instead of using the drugs for self-medication," he stressed.

"It is sad to see a man of the defendant's background fall from grace."

Under Hong Kong law, bringing drugs into the territory can be defined as trafficking, regardless of the purpose. The maximum penalty is life imprisonment plus a fine equivalent to about P28 million.

Prosecutors challenged Singson's claim that the drugs were intended for his own consumption, but Sin sided with Singson, saying he did not drink the Philippine lawmaker needed to sell drugs given his wealth from various business interests.

Sin added that Singson did not have any friends in Hong Kong and that he was likely to share the drugs with.

'It's evil'

Singson's face turned red and said after the judge's undermining statements on the mitigation issue.

As the reading of the sentence came to a close and the judge began to announce the punishment, Singson clasped his hands together and closed his eyes.

All sentences in Hong Kong are normally reduced one-third if one pleads guilty to an offense.

In his sentence, Sin said the amount of drugs was substantial and the issue of drugs for personal consumption was "a very important consideration" to sentencing.

"Trafficking in dangerous drugs is a very serious offense. It's evil," the judge said.

He said that while the drugs were intended for personal use, the court also considered the "high risk" of the drugs "falling into the hands of others."

"Although the defendant did not intend to sell, it's the view of the court that the cocaine might fall into the hands of other people. The risk is a substantial one. This is a factor that the court will have to consider in determining the sentence," he said.

'Daddy, daddy'

Sin rejected the defense argument in Wednesday's mitigation hearing that Singson's good educational background and extensive business interests, his family's support and his having a 12-year-old daughter, Samantha, should make for a lighter sentence.

Shortly after the sentence was read, a Hong Kong policewoman immediately took Singson to an adjacent room, while his father, mother and six siblings rushed to a conference room.

In the commotion, daughter Samantha cried, shouting "Daddy, Daddy," as her grandmother carried her off.

Singson's girlfriend, actress Lani Mercado, broke into tears upon hearing the sentence and ran away from the media, saying she had to be at the airport for her flight back home.

Singson was caught with the drugs last year while transiting through Hong Kong's airport en route to the gambling enclave of Macau.

Singson previously testified he had used cocaine at various times since 2006, and undisclosed tests in his 20s.

Family devastated

The elder Singson, his wife Evelyn, and other children attended the sentencing, as did Ate.

The elder Singson said he was told by lawyers that his son would be detained at Hong Kong's Lai Chi Kok Correctional Institution, where the congressman had spent 40 days before posting bail.

"Nobody is above the law," the former governor said, holding back his tears, after the hearing. "I'm not surprised but WITH SAD."

"We feel bad about it but it's expected. I don't know what the lawyers will do but to me, it's better not to appeal it," he added.

Before the sentencing, the Singson family prayed for a suspended sentence, which is tantamount to the imposition of a fine instead of imprisonment during Wednesday's mitigation hearing.

Evelyn said the family was devastated.

'Very remorseful'

Minutes before he was sentenced, Singson talked to the media for the last time as a free man. He apologized to the people of Hong Kong for the crime that he had committed.

He also said he was "very remorseful" for what he had done, and that he was paying the price for this.

"I've been here in a foreign country for seven months now. I've been incarcerated for two months prior to my bail and that's not easy to go through, this being away from my family, being away from my loved ones," he said. "There's nothing I want much more than to have a conclusion to this unfortunate part of my life."

Asked why he decided to plead guilty to trafficking instead of in the lesser offense of illegal possession of drugs, Singson said "he could only plead guilty to the offense he was charged with, which was trafficking."

He said he would announce later his decision on whether to resign as a congressman.

"It's not like, when I get back to the Philippines then I'll have whatever I will have to face there. I can't deal with both at the same time because of the uncertainties of the situation here," he said.

Singson also thanked the Hong Kong courts for their objectivity and said he was "very satisfied" with their professionalism.

"I still hope that God will give me more strength to get through this, whatever the outcome will be," he said.

Resignation call

Back home, Eastern Samar Rep. Ben Evardone said: "He should resign for the sake of Congress as an institution."

Should he refuse to do so, the House committee should speed up the process of expelling him, Evardone added.

Bayan Muna Rep. Teddy Casiño said the House ethics committee had no choice but to recommend Singson's expulsion to the plenary. Casiño also noted that respondent remained an opinion of Singson.

Zambales Rep. Mitzi Magsaysay also said that if Singson does not resign, the ethics committee should move on his case soon. He noted that Singson had planned to announce his next move after the verdict on his case was handed down.

The House ethics committee chair, Rep. Rico Auiatenido, said Singson would have to be given a chance to respond to the ethics complaint filed against him once his ding case.

"We will give Congressman Singson a chance to answer in the same way he was given a chance by the Hong Kong courts. But our process will be much faster," Auiatenido said.

With reports from Leila B. Salaverria and Concepcion Bueno Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon

WHAT WENT BEFORE

S. CROIX Inlet Rep. Ronald V. Singson was arrested on July 11, 2010, at the Chek Lap Kok International Airport in Hong Kong with 6.67 grams of cocaine and two tablets of the narcotic Ecstasy.

The cocaine was hidden in his underpants.

The son of House Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson was charged with trafficking in dangerous drugs and detained at the Lai Chi Kok Correctional Institution.

Under Hong Kong law, the mere act of bringing drugs into the territory amounts to trafficking, regardless of whether the drugs are for personal use or for sale or distribution.

Guilty plea

On Aug. 10, 2010, the Tsuen Wan District Court allowed Singson to post bail of HK$2 million (P11.6 million). The prosecution had rejected two previous bail applications but agreed to the third one after two Hong Kong residents stood as guarantors and agreed to cancel each family's bond for the congressman.

Hitched, Singson was not allowed to leave the territory and forbid to surrender his travel papers and no diplomatic passport. He was also required to report to the Hong Kong police station from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

On Jan. 31, Singson pleaded guilty to trafficking drugs, a charge that carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment and a fine of HK$5 million (about P28 million).

Plea for leniency

Singson, who was also a concert promoter and owner of a cable music channel, admitted he went on a cocaine binge after attending a Manila concert he produced on July 9 featuring American R&B singer Usher, frustrated by an argument with his girlfriend.

He then decided to join a friend attending a poker tournament in Macau, and was arrested while transiting through Hong Kong.

He said the court he was already undergoing rehabilitation for his drug addiction, and pleaded for leniency.

On Feb. 23, Singson's lawyer John Reading, proposed a reduced sentence of less than two years, but the prosecution said it was not comfortable with such a short sentence.

Social evil

Singson is affiliated with Lakas-CMD and is a second-term lawmaker.

In September 2007, he filed House Bill No. 3500, which sought the immediate destruction of confiscated, seized or surrendered dangerous drugs and paraphernalia.

"Dangerous drugs are one of today's most serious social ills," Singson said in his bill.

Inquirer Research

Source: Inquirer Archives, http://newsinfo.inquirer.com/

Community driven antipoverty drive eyed

PRESIDENT Aquino has ordered the Cabinet cluster on human development for poverty reduction to study the resolution submitted by mayors, people's groups and nongovernment organizations urging the national government to adopt the community-driven development strategy as a national program.

Social Welfare and Development Secretary Corazon Soliman said the President wanted the details of the program so the national government can adopt it as a national strategy for all government agencies in implementing their projects.

"The President said in principle, he does not see any problem but he wants the strategy to be detailed for it to be adopted as a national strategy," Soliman said after a forum on people-powered community development in Mandaluyong.

Community driven development is the strategy behind the government's Kalahi-CIDSS program. It involves the community in the implementation of pro-poor projects that can be adopted by government agencies.

"If the community is involved in the project, we can expect them to help in the maintenance and maintenance of the said project because they were part of the decision-making and in the implementation of the projects," Soliman said. Norman Bordadora

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Ligot in-law has no job but earned ₱300M in 5 years

By TJ Burgonio

THE STRUCTURE that led to income but managed to amass at least ₱300 million in five years, including a ₱20-million unit in a swank condominium building in Taguig City and a ₱2-million sport utility vehicle.

At the emancipation residence of the Senate deputy sergeant-at-arms in Dasmariñas Village, the spotlight briefly shifted from former military comptroller Jacinto Ligot to Alejandro Tumilaos, a brother of his wife Yolanda.

"Mr.'s a mysterious person," said Sen. Franklin Drilon, who presided the senate's sensational coup trial in a hotel ballroom.

Tumilaos, 59, formerly Ligot dropped the Senate blue ribbon committee's hearing on the controversial plea bargain between state prosecutors and Carlos Garcia, Ligot's successor in military comptrollership.

Senate security tried to serve a subpoena on Tumilaos but could not locate him. Officials Ligot has been confined at Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City since Tuesday because of headaches and abdominal pain, among others.

Ligot, along with his wife Yolanda, children Paulo, Pilita and Miguel, sister Wilpaida Ligot-Pampus, and Tumilaos, is facing a ₱233.2-million forfeiture case at the Sandiganbayan.

Enormous condo

As Exhibit A in Tumilaos's wealth, Drilon presented a deed of sale of a unit at the Enzoton Real Property Condominium Tower at Fort Bonifacio from Exhibit D in Tumilaos for ₱20 million.

Until 10-4 at Enzoton's Lawton Tower was described in the documents as measuring 200 square meters and having three parking spaces. It is currently valued at ₱35 million, Drilon said.

Ligot initially denied owning a unit at Enzoton, but when shown the deed of sale dated Aug. 16, 2005, he Drilon, he said the signature on the document "appears" to be his.

"This information is now with the Sandiganbayan. This is being heard in the forfeiture case," Ligot said when asked about the sale of the unit to his brother-in-law.

When pressed further by Drilon, he again invoked his right against self-incrimination.

LIGOT: Wife on closet, wary kids' brother-in-law [illegible]

Under questioning by Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, Ligot said it was "Jasmine who owned the unit.

"Mrs. Ligot's name was only used. That's part of our defense in the Sandiganbayan," Ligot said. Later adding that the unit was "built in part" by his wife.

Ligot was then asked, "if Erlinda Ligot was the trustee, who was the principal?

"The brother," Ligot said, meaning Tumilaos.

The answer appeared to stump Drilon, who remarked: "If he's the owner, then he also paid P20 million?"

Ligot declined to answer, saying this was part of his defense in a forfeiture case in the Sandiganbayan.

He also said he did not list the P20-million unit in his statement of assets and liabilities, and not declared that there was no exchange of P20 million between the Ligots and Tumilaos.

Ligot, who was AFP deputy chief of staff for comptrollership from 1999 to 2001, described Tumilaos as a "trader" in general. But he could not say if Tumilaos had been earning enough.

'Surprising' purchases

Drilon said it was "surprising" that Tumilaos had managed to acquire a unit in the Enzoton despite having no income and not filing a tax return in 2005.

In fact, Drilon said, Tumilaos acquired other property and maintained bank accounts in the years 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003 and 2004, although he did not declare any income and did not file a tax return.

Drilon gave, for example, Tumilaos purchased a ₱1.4-million unit at Burgundy Place on Edsa-Quezon Avenue in Quezon City, Drilon said.

Ligot confirmed that Tumilaos owned somewhere in this unit.

Drilon also presented a Toyota Highlander for ₱1.8 million in November 2010 and a Subaru Forester for ₱1.1 million in July 2002, according to Drilon, who presented photocopies of the deeds of sale.

Additionally, Drilon said, there were deposits in Tumilaos's name in the amounts of ₱795,386,617 in 2002, ₱2,350,483 and ₱20,752,527 in 2003, and ₱305,311.57 and ₱21,356,127.75, even though he did not file tax returns in those years.

Ligot said he could not list his brother-in-law had "about ₱300 million for those years when he did not file his returns because he had no income."

"That's why he's a mysterious person. We've tried to subpoena him. The subpoena was returned because he disappeared into thin air," Drilon said, expressing that Tumilaos should be summoned soon.

Ligot was later taken to the Senate clinic with an elevated blood pressure.

Prosecutors told by ex-Ombudsman: You're out to lose Garcia case

From page A1

Former senior auditor Heidi Mendoza said a special prosecutor had tried to convince her to back the position that the case against Garcia was "indeed over" and, thus, a plea bargain was called for.

Mendoza said Special Prosecutor Joseph Capistrano phoned her last December on the eve of the prosecutors' powwow conference to explain why they were pushing the plea bargain.

"You know, Heidi, they're just one week, that from the start, it was weak," the quoted Capistrano as telling her in Filipino.

She said Capistrano cited, among other things, her failure to finish her audit report on military suppliers.

Mendoza said Capistrano wanted her "commitment" that she would "not rebute" in public what the prosecution would say—that the Garcia case was indeed weak.

Capistrano admitted making the phone call but tried to put the conversation in perspective.

"I told her we should say what really happened in the case, that if the base we were working on is, it was really weak and we were forced to build up a case," he said.

Scolding

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile scolded the prosecutors' decision to allow Garcia to plead guilty to a lesser offense "point by point" to the plunder case.

Enrile told Special Prosecutor Jose Roberto A. that his group should have known that "once a plea is made, jeopardy could set in." He was referring to the principle protecting an accused from being charged with the same offense.

Roberto replied: "At that time, we felt that [Garcia's] entering a plea would be part of the conviction that we [were] supposed [to be the plea bargain]."

Enrile: "Why did you go through the process of getting the approval of the court to that plea bargain if you're going to allow the accused to plead guilty for the lesser crime pursuant to the plea bargain, knowing that if he pleaded guilty that's it?"

Roberto denied Enrile's conclusion that prosecutors allowed Garcia "to plead guilty so that he cannot be charged anymore with the higher offense [so as to get off] double jeopardy."

"Then I would tell you that you have been grossly negligent if you did not understand the implication of what you were doing," Enrile retorted.

He, subsist, your honors," Roberto said.

Death threats

Mendoza earlier looked incensed with Sen. Angara Gordon, who pulled from the allegedly going President Aquino among information on the plea bargain.

The former Ombudsman denied this, saying he had written the President owing to his concern about the Garcia case.

"I went through a lot," Mendoza said. "Because of that case, I received so many death threats, including against my family. At most every day, I would receive threats in my office. They said they were from the military."

Mendoza said he never had the chance to consult the police or military officials Medina. He said he relied on his own investigation.

Mendoza said she was told by Capistrano and Macrohon's "confidantes, this is the Senate. Kindly be civil. Let the others have their turn."

More questions

Enrile said it would be prudent for the Supreme Court to look into the Garcia plea bargain and the Sandiganbayan's rejection.

The legal implications of the deal continues to baffle the resolute, with presidents such as whether the Sandiganbayan could nullify it after allowing Garcia to post bail raised again at yesterday's hearing.

"The Sandiganbayan has a lot to answer and explain," Enrile said, but stressed the need for the high court to also open an inquiry.

"It's probably part of the mandate for the Supreme Court to look into this because they supervise the courts of the land. We must answer the whole thing for the sake of the system. This is a classic case where the justice system of the land is directly involved," he said.

Enrile made the remark after Justice Secretary Leila de Lima said that Garcia's "surety and prosecution plea" in the house of former Judge Jose Balboa was "a legal, null and void."

De Lima said the plea would therefore be revoked. "It has no other circumstances," she said.

DEATH THREATS: Former Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo gets emotional during the hearing on Carlos Garcia's case at the Senate where he revealed that he had received many threats on his life while handling the case. [illegible]

Can't remedy

Under the deal signed on Feb. 23, 2010, Garcia agreed to return P135 million of the P303 million he allegedly stole. In exchange, he was allowed to plead guilty to three charges and was allowed to post bail in December.

De Lima agreed, that the government's remedy out of the same was to void the plea, disapprove the plea bargain, and proceed with the trial on plunder.

He said the plea bargain was null and void because it lacked consent from the offended party—the military—and the charges set out that such an agreement could be forged before arraignment, or after arraignment before trial.

De Lima also said the ₱135 million withdrawn by the Garcia family in October 2004 that was excluded from the plea bargain could be part of a separate forfeiture case against Garcia.

Asked by Drilon, she agreed that this could be the subject of a separate plunder case. But Enrile reminded them that refunds could be charged for the same crime.

De Lima recommended that the Senate craft a bill setting the rules for a plea bargain and another one prohibiting such an agreement in the plunder law.

The hearing ended with Sen. Teofisto Guingona III, chair of the investigating committee, warning reserve person against pretending to be ill in order to evade commissions to the probe.

"The committee will not entertain ... physician who will irresponsible issue medical certificates," Guingona said. "We will take them to task."

Legislative measures

Speaking later at a news briefing, De Lima reiterated that lawmakers should enact a law banning plea bargains for particularly standing trial for plunder.

De Lima argued that because plunder was considered a "high crime," those found guilty of stealing public money must spend time in prison.

"We should prohibit plea bargain to plunder cases in any stage ... so we can have a deterrent effect," she said.

De Lima also said Congress had already ratified certain laws, such as Republic Act No. 9165 (or the Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002), which disallows a plea bargain for the accused.

"If we are not allowing plea bargain in the case of drugs pushers who are not plunder cases, when this is a high crime? But of course, this would be subject to the wisdom of the legislature," she said.

De Lima said Congress should also consider the "exceptional definition" of the term "offended party" in the current antiplunder law.

"Those proposals for legislative measures are meant to address the problem and would make it very particularly plea bargaining in the future," she said.

In the Garcia plunder case, De Lima said it was "common sense" that the offended party was the Armed Forces "since we stand to recover about the funds of the military."

Proposed dismissal

De Lima disclosed that Malacañang was studying the Ombudsman's options to impose dismissal on the three prosecutors who endorsed the Garcia-Enrile bargain.

"We are reminding the Office of the Executive Secretary is studying it," she said.

She added that under the Constitution, the President may order the dismissal of special prosecutors using the same grounds for impeachment.

De Lima also said the House justice committee led by Bohol Rep. Erico Basilio A. Fabian and Mr. Aquino to dismiss Special Prosecutor Enrile.

She recommended the discharge since Assistant Special Prosecutors Balmes and Capistrano and Deputy Special Prosecutor Wendell Roberto Rollen and Jesus Mosad.

Seniors' prom rudely interrupted by Marcos goons 25 years ago

From page A1

star Imee and bosses of Radio Veritas in Quezon Zabala were taken down to their residences from joining the institution at Edsa calling for an end to Ferdinand Marcos dictatorship.

On April 16, in memory of the events leading to the 1986 People Power Revolution, Zeneida and her classmates will salvage the prom night that was so rudely interrupted. The venue is the Edsa Shrine.

The class had originally scheduled the reunion on Feb. 24, but many of its members interesting overseas and needed time to make travel arrangements.

Zeneida, who once works at PNB, and she reported success-ing the dance with her friends.

But it ended. "If it will happen again, I will go like to lose that chance to dance all our freedom. That dance is something compared to our restored democracy, which we continue to enjoy today."

Full battle gear

Excerpts of its music the events clearly. "It was just too sad. I was in the middle of a dance and my friends and other lives one a sad-dens lives ended."

Some guests was heard from after and all of them were quickly sent home, she said.

Soldiers had also taken down the Voice of the Philippines transmission line that was operated by the Philippine Information Agency. Boss the power outage of the area.

As they headed home, Zeneida and the other teenagers saw a frightened by the night of Army troops in battle gear guarding sections of Makati or Highway.

Most teachers and staff and the other boys turned to boys to do not their to set others over the other upheaval.

Andy Reyes whose was possible then, "he said: "There were so many playing the back then, so all the boys asked home."

Stella Mendoza, now a nurse in the United Kingdom, said she heard about the attack on Radio Veritas from a friend.

"The following day (Feb. 25), we went to Mass and then joined an [ecumenical meeting] at the Ateneo [de] We thanked God that the dance [who] attended the revolution," Mendoza said.

Yellow Camp

In Baguio City, the members who mastered their own small uprising at Baguio Cathedral 25 years ago said their reunion was also interrupted by bullets from Radio Veritas.

Rosario Maria coordinator Manuel Lorenzo said that while still not groups began protest actions against the Marcos dictatorship in 1982, the tumultuous events of Edsa is late any 1986 drew together a "Yellow Camp" composed of activists, professionals, middle-class students, artists and cultural workers like former Baguio Mayor Francisco Purugganan Jr.

But a very quiet Philippine Military Academy finished many of their during those days, said Lucio, a PMA professor until 1971.

According to Col. Archimedes Vaje, historian, the PMA played on its members on Feb. 22-25.

Vaje is a member of PMA's Sinaglahi Class of 1986, the first class that graduated under the revolutionary President, the late Corazon Aquino.

In Vaje's recollection, the PMA community was silent in the radio during those fateful days, fearing an attack by the rebelling armed.

He said not even the PMA was spared by the economic downturn that preceded the weeks and days leading to the revolt.

Budget austerities had so restrained the PMA allotment in 1986 that the cadets had to survive on their own vegetable plots during Army, he said.

Taking sides

As the senior class of the time, Sinaglahi gathered the Corps of Cadets to make a stand.

"The majority of our class decided to take with Imee. [Other] Names are [Defense] Minister [Juan Ponce] Enrile," Bugaoan said. "We for made a pronouncement [at the] Quadrangle ... if they needed armed forces, they could count on us."

De Lima agreed, that the government's remedy out of the same was to void the plea, disapprove the plea bargain, and proceed with the trial on plunder.

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Real lesson

"The perception now is that military [support] is the key to changing government," Vaje noted.

But the realization is that the military should stay away from [illegible], he said. With a report from Rizwan Cabrera, Inquirer Northern Luzon

$1,000 EACH

Marcos victims get paid next week

ABOUT 7,500 victims of human rights abuses during late dictator Ferdinand Marcos' regime will receive compensation for their suffering starting next week, 25 years after a precedent-setting award Marcos into exile in Hawaii, their lawyers and protestors.

It is the first time the victims will receive any compensation since the first filed a class action suit in 1986.

"The distribution is historic and is a triumph after 25 years of struggle in arduous justice," said Honolulu-based lead lawyer Robert Swift.

Swift said victims will receive the equivalent of $1,000 each starting on a ceremony on Monday. Swift said his Filipino co-counsel, assisted by the Commission on Human Rights, will distribute checks personally to claimants at their homes in Manila and 15 other locations in the country.

Due on counsel, former Sen. Rene Saguisag, said "the money is important but more important is to send the message to would-be dictators, to would-be human rights violators, that they will be held accountable."

Saguisag said the payments should warn dictators now facing uprisings in the Middle East to "be careful." Also warn to no haven for gross human rights violators."

Last month, Judge Manuel Real of the US United States District Court in Honolulu approved the distribution of $7.5 million to 7,526 eligible members of the class-action lawsuit. There were 9,539 members of the class action lawsuit. There were 2,008 did not meet court requirements.

The funds to be distributed come from a $14 million settlement of a case against individuals controlling Texas and Colorado land brought with Marcos money, but some $2.5 million more declared for legal fees and payment to the person who hunted the properties.

Swift said the $1,000 to not an admission of guilt, but was just a deal, and that more money may be forthcoming.

Last month Real denied a judgment holding Marcos' widow Imelda and son Ferdinand Jr. in contempt for refusing a US court order requiring them to furnish information on assets of the Marcos family and cronies for the $10 billion. The court allowed them to pay a fine of $353.6 million for the benefit of the victims.

Swift said the contempt judgment "will give us an opportunity to pursue other assets that we haven't been able to pursue".

Two cities could cases in Singapore and New York involving a total of $68 million are also awaiting resolution.

Swift added:

The payments to the victims of Marcos's $10B a $2 billion judgment against the Marcos estate in 1995. A federal jury awarded the money after finding Marcos liable for torture, summary executions and disappearances of political opponents during his 20-year rule.

But the victims never received any money until now because of disputes over Marcos' property. The Philippine government instead collected all Marcos' property was stolen from the Filipino people and has brought any distribution to victims of human rights violations. AP

Gov't probes kidnappings in Region 12

By Nikko Dizon

A RECENT spate in kidnap-for-ransom incidents in Mindanao, particularly Region 12, that allegedly involve public officials, the police and military has prompted the government to launch an investigation in retaliation.

"What is very alarming is that certain public officials are allegedly involved," Justice Secretary Leila de Lima said in a press conference yesterday.

Region 12 is a five-province, five-component for the provinces of South Cotabato, Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and Sarangani plus General Santos City.

Among the four provinces, it is reportedly in Sharifa Cotabato that kidnapping incidents involve "grave concern." De Lima said. Most of them have gone unreported, she said.

Joint Department Order No. 02-2011, signed on Feb. 18, formed a joint department task force that would "investigate and identify public officials' involvement in kidnap-for-ransom activities in Region 12."

"There are reports and intelligence information to the effect that 60% (the) snap-for-ransom groups operating in Region 12 are aided, supported or protected by certain public officials, including members of the PNP (Philippine National Police) and the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines)," the order said, adding:

"There intelligence information of public officials' involvement have to be further ascertained and investigated in order to identify and collect evidence against said public officials for their arrest and prosecution."

Missing Cebuano nurses' kin: We can't rely on DFA

By Jeannette Napallacan and Jaqy Galdeza
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—Relatives of the Cebuano nurses trapped in the collapsed Canterbury Television (CTV) building in New Zealand's earthquake-ravaged Christchurch are also pinning hopes with the Philippine government's rescue operations in the area.

Bill Bandillon, whose brother-in-law Jove Jalon Estanislao Chan was among the Filipinos unaccounted for as CTV, said his family asked Philippine agencies for an update on the search and rescue operations in New Zealand after Tuesday's tragedy.

Bandillon said he called the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) in Manila and the Philippine Embassy in Wellington, where he was able to talk with Consul Marcus Fernandez.

Instead of giving information, he ended up giving them more details.

"We are very disappointed. Aside from the fact that they were very late in sending people to Christchurch, they could not give concrete information as to if we should not rely on them," Bandillon said.

Speaking on behalf of the Chan family of Lapu-Lapu City, Bandillon said he was sure the relatives of the other Cebuanos nurses shared the same sentiments.

Text message

Chan was reportedly buried in the rubble of the CTV building when a 6.3-magnitude earthquake struck Christchurch on Tuesday. With him were Filipino nurses Rica May Dumalpang, Emmanuelle Jane Dumaraos and previously reported deaths of Marjorie Ibe were, Ben Mac Mendiola, Jessie Lloyd Redaldo and Jovena Pimentel.

Dumalpang was able to send a text message to her mother, Marilene, who is based in Australia, asking for help. Marilene then forwarded the text to her relatives in Cebu. No additional information has been received from Dumalpang.

Marilene's sister, Dr. Ethel Dy, sought assistance from the Cebu provincial government, which then informed the DFA, and the Philippine Embassy in New Zealand about the plight of the nurses.

Dy said the New Zealand authorities had coordinated with the Government of her sister in New Zealand to identify the trapped nurses.

She added that DFA Chargé d'Affaires Consul Felix, who arrived in Christchurch yesterday, had talked with Dumalpang's housemates Ariel Arnado Cabardo and Jovena Pimentel.

Cabardino, a nurse from San Fernando, Cebu, moved in one unit of Dumalpang's unit when he arrived in New Zealand.

Praying together

Dy said Dumalpang's parents were prepared to travel to New Zealand but they were advised to stay put until the fate of their daughter becomes clearer.

She said some members of the Cebuanos' community are praying together and planning their next moves.

Another member Arnold Cabardino said in earlier reports that three more nurses are unaccounted for at the CTV building.

"I know the one survivor because she is a diploma. The medication should be under the research and rescue operation," Cabardino said.

Another, the second of the couple, kept left Cebu on Saturday with four other nurses in search of work English classes for aspiring nurses heading to the land of CTV to fulfill a New Zealand requirement for nurses.

Another is a member of the group who has husband is a guard at the provincial jail.

No clear pictures

An overseas Filipino worker in Christchurch also rose, phoned on Thursday that no body from the Philippine Embassy made time to check OFW. Spiritual were delivered by the municipality.

Consular Cabrino, in his Facebook account, called on the Philippine government to provide assistance to Filipinos in Christchurch.

He said also the Philippine ambassador stationed at the New Zealand capital, days after the disaster struck the city which has more than 2,000 Filipinos.

"We really don't know what the administration of Ms. Aquino is doing to help us here in Christchurch. The ambassador remains in Wellington," according to Cabrino. Ok as engineer from Tacloban.

He explained that there was no major damage in his area, but the Filipinos there would have apprehensive concern, shivered by the mishaps.

Is anyone in government doing anything to help us here?" Cabrino said. With reports from Carmela Mateo, Inquirer Visayas

14 Filipinos missing in New Zealand; hopes fading

By Inquirer
DFA Chargé d'Affaires Consul Felix arrived yesterday in Christchurch, where as estimated 2,000 Filipinos reside, to coordinate search and rescue operations with police and other teams for the missing Filipinos.

Hope fading

Hope faded of finding more survivors Thursday in the collapsed towers of Christchurch, as the death toll rose to 98 with grave fears for 228 missing, including at least 14 Filipinos.

Police said up to 120 bodies may still be trapped in the CTV building, where the rest of workers from the Philippines, Japan, China and other Asian countries were believed to have an English-language school, collapsed along with other offices in the CTV building.

The search for bodies were guided from the rubble of the city's tallest building, but the rescue section has effectively closed off.

Officials hoped not to find any of the missing to be survivors, saying the agency could be unsure if they realized the immediate area and were in no danger.

"The whole area is like a war zone," Deputy Police Commissioner Wally Haumaha told Radio New Zealand. Around 220 people were feared to be missing, and Prime Minister John Key said there was no "good cheer" that many of them did survive.

Among the dead were two infant boys aged 7 months old, the oldest 3 months. Chief said. He did not provide further details.

"We are very frankly tonight that the death toll could be much greater than any of us have ever feared," Key said, adding the search of survivors for the chance of "international people that we thought was in the international city."

Financial losses

Rescue efforts at the last focused on the CTV building and a handful of other major offices rising from the crumbled downtown, but crews do clear structures shifting in places, opening of facades while the remaining rescue efforts focused on bodies still. He now needs are more focused since Wednesday.

The damaged buildings in and around Christchurch numbered in the thousands including many of the older structures in Lyttelton, a port town just southeast of the city and closer to the epicenter of the 6.3-magnitude quake on Tuesday afternoon. Streets were littered through the dusty brick and glass covered streets, passing to offer each other hugs and ask the obvious, open question: "Were you in town?"

"It was just horrific," 15-year-old student Veronique Dupont said of Tuesday's quake, which struck in the late afternoon, when many students were in school and the building collapsed more sharply.

"I thought the whole town was coming up around the earth," he said.

The people Dupont did not see was in ruins. Huge chunks of the main Lyttelton shopping street, which is a tourist pile. Glass shop fronts were shattered in each town.

Special hurdles

In Christchurch, hundreds of foreigners, students—from the United States, Britain, Japan, Singapore and Taiwan—arrived to inform local police and relatives and allow rescue to broaden their search to smaller buildings as expected.

Many worker got the capability of going out and doing searches in areas where there may still be people trapped in rubble, was not known where address address." Civil Defense Minister John Carter said.

Teams formed in like crews formed image helpers and with smaller dogs moved along city streets lined with cars and rescuers of the buildings, small more, reminiscent and safer. The initial search and build efforts on, as aftermath, and no other car parked as the only be evident and in heavy use of evenings.

They were looking in to building to town, a day would be seen locked and trash scattered by, as the rubble, the rescuers following gingerly after them. As car place, they uncovered a body pinned under a huge chunk of concrete.

Mayor Bob Parker said a massive six-kilometer downtown into a grid of 11 squares, and did preliminary checks on 60 percent of them by the end of Thursday. They started

LOOKS VAST Rescue workers survey the collapsed CTV building that housed the King's Education Center, where the missing Filipinos are believed to be trapped, following Tuesday's earthquake in Christchurch. AFP

ANONYMOUS AUSTIC Relatives of Canterbury Television in the Philippines at an international airport in Australia, hoping to find out about the fate of the CTV building in Christchurch. Police say up to 120 people may still be trapped there. AFP

Rescue and search work in the area, and relatives as searching more detailed checks here.

Key has declared the quake a national disaster, and ordered a national day of mourning on Friday. Flags will be flown at half-mast.

The worst quakes for Christchurch are increasingly severe as the city's population grows.

Powers was ramped up to 24 percent of the city's tech could take over due to repair outages in the area, including the hardest-hit regions and Rogers Barnes, the chief executive of supplier Orion.

School and colleges in the city were unopened, and residents advised to stay home as rescue and recovery efforts continued.

Officials tightened control over a cordoned-off zone downtown where only damage is to stem, gathering news cameras turned pointed and pointing from in buses to take them to sites of interest. Civil and emergency services were aware of journalists were to protect them from potential building collapses.

Tuesday's quake was the second most destructive in the city in the past five months.

It was less powerful than the 7.1-magnitude temblor that struck below dawn on Sept. 4, damaging buildings but killing no one. Experts said Tuesday's quake was a relative aftershock. It was shorter in duration but more powerful were closer. With reports from AP and Mary E. Rigdon and Jo Shields

P-Noy refutes criticisms over Libyan evacuation

AN ESTIMATED 20,000 overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) are stranded in strife-torn Libya and are desperate to be rescued, an Indonesian envoy to the country said as it blasted the Philippine government's evacuation efforts.

In Malacañang, President Aquino said the government had made genuine efforts to help the stranded OFWs, but he acknowledged it did not have the resources or manpower to launch mass evacuations. He said the Philippine envoy will travel to Benghazi, 162 km from Tripoli, to make contact with the Filipinos there.

Mr. Aquino made the statement amid a hail from the country with envoy of its members in Libya as they scramble to find ways of crossing the border to neighboring countries without government support.

"The Philippine government really cannot [do] very large telling the workers that there was voluntary evacuation, but how will they know who to look for or where and how do they get to the assigned places," Migrante chair Gary Martinez told reporters in Quezon City.

"When we spoke to our group of construction workers last night, they said they will try to make it across the border to Egypt by bus today, because they haven't heard from any government official," Martinez added.

Under the Dole Migrante, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) yesterday said 26 OFWs from Libya had crossed the border into Egypt and were on their way to Cairo to catch their flights to Manila.

More OFWs from Benghazi (in eastern Libya) are expected to cross (the border) today," the DFA said in a statement.

P-Noy rebuttal

"There has been criticism that we have not been handling or attending to them. That is not correct," Mr. Aquino told reporters.

"There are severe limitations on what we can do," he said, stressing that the Philippine Embassy staff of 21 in the Libyan capital Tripoli had been overwhelmed.

Ms. Aquino then directed Vice President Jejomar Binay to monitor the evacuation of OFWs from Libya.

Binay, the presidential adviser on OFW concerns, is scheduled to leave this afternoon for Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

"I have received instructions from the President to directly monitor and, if needed, give guidance to the men concerning the evacuation of Filipinos from Libya. Since I am already in the region, I will be doing what needs to be done to ensure the safety of our kababayan," Binay said.

The Vice President said he would meet with high officials in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates "for bilateral talks on a host of issues, including the possible repatriation of overseasing OFWs."

"My visit to the Middle East significantly underscores our government's resolve in protecting the welfare of our OFWs and increasing their safety," Binay added.

Philippine team

At the Egyptian border, Consul General Renato Dantes Jr. is set up a team from the Philippine Embassy in Cairo to help Filipinos coming from Benghazi, Al Qaida and other places in eastern Libya, according to Assistant Foreign Secretary Ed Malaya, also the DFA spokesperson.

"A similar team will be in place at the Libyan-Tunisian border to receive OFWs coming from Tripoli, the Libyan capital," Malaya said.

DRAGGY COMIC: This image broadcast on Libyan state television on Tuesday shows Libyan leader Muammar Gadhafi as he addresses thousands. Gadhafi was set to fight on against protesters demanding his ouster and the end of his 41-year rule.

The DFA has released an initial $3,000,000 to the Philippine Embassy in Libya for the repatriation of OFWs.

The Department of Labor and Employment and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration have committed a total of P120 million for the same purpose.

Chartered plane

As moves to the Philippine government's evacuation efforts, other Asian countries, such as China and South Korea, have chartered planes and ships to get their citizens out as Libya descended into chaos.

South Korea evacuated by boarding a 126-chartered ferry to Malta, while Britain deployed airplanes to pick up their nationals.

Martinez said reports reaching the Migrante office in Manila from their partner organizations in Libya said many of the nearly 20,000 OFWs were stranded in the North African country.

He said a group of 160 workers in Al Kufrah district in southeastern Libya bordering Egypt had been abandoned by their local employers, but fend for themselves while they escape.

"We're not content with them. So far the last time we spoke to them yesterday they said they had run out of food and were not being helped by their local employers," Martinez said.

"They reported they could hear heavy gunfire in surrounding areas, making it dangerous for them to move. They want to be rescued," he added. Reports from AFP, Kyodo, Philstar.com and Christine O. Avendaño

Loyal Gadhafi troops mass in Tripoli for last stand

From page A1

have fought elsewhere, in places like Sirte, but he has now rallied them back.

On Wednesday, witnesses said thousands of members of the irregular security force were massing on roads in the capital, Tripoli, where our resident described armors everywhere of anti-Gadhafi militias destroyed by heavily armed men in unmarked vehicles distributing machine guns and calling on every one rushes to kill Libyans that refuse police and military ranks, and even fighter pilots, have refused.

Some residents of Tripoli said they took the gathering force as a sign that the regime might be entering a desperate stage, with Gadhafi fortifying his ranks strongholds in the capital and protesters there gearing up for their final organized demonstration after days of spontaneous rioting and bloody crackdowns.

Defected, emboldened

Misrata, 208 kilometers east of the capital, has left Gadhafi more emboldened...and his opposition emboldened.

"A message comes to every mobile phone about a general protest on Friday in Tripoli," one resident of Tripoli said. Gadhafi's remaining speech in the country on Tuesday...others he vowed to hunt down opponents "house by house"...increased their determination "100 percent," the resident said.

Dozens of checkpoints operated by a mercenaries of foreign mercenaries and plainclothes militiamen in the road area of Tripoli for the first time, witnesses said, escaping not only the presentation of official papers but also displays of flag waving, flag-pumping enthusiasm for Gadhafi, who has long fashioned himself as a pan-African icon.

"Now are relying on foreigners, they are a loyalists," one resident said, "and the armies and they realize that you are not, you are done for."

On Thursday, a Libyan Army unit loyal to Gadhafi blasted a column of a counter-with artillery fire, witnesses said, opening

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Unfading glory

EDITORIAL

WE REMEMBER the sights: the press conference held by the leaders of the military breakaway group, a calm Fidel Ramos beside a visibly tense Juan Ponce Enrile, with a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary behind them; the first trickle of civilians pouring in to Camp Aguinaldo on Saturday night to offer their support and protection, the confrontation on Sunday with the tanks at the corner of Epifanio de los Santos and Ortigas Avenues, with the nuns at the front, thousands of unarmed civilians beside and behind them; the sudden appearance of opposition personalities on government TV after the studio had been liberated by reformist forces. Above all, we remember the bursting, yellow sea: the stirring sight of millions of people filling Edsa between Ortigas and P. Tuazon Street in Cubao, from Sunday afternoon to Tuesday night.

We remember the sounds: the rumors that swirled through the country's urban centers that fateful weekend; the first appeals aired on Radio Veritas, first by Butz Aquino, then by Jaime Cardinal Sin, for people to assemble outside Camp Aguinaldo; the uplifting strains of the 1950s campaign jingle "Mambo Magsaysay," offering both instant nostalgia and cheerful resolve; the lilting voice of June Keithley, who would later be recognized as the "field marshal of the revolution," streaming through Radio Veritas and then Radyo Bandido; the impromptu concerts staged outside the military camps by the Ilpo Hiking Society and their friends; the constant whop-whop-whopping of helicopter blades, as helicopter gunships patrolled the skies before Col. Antonio Kotsky's air wing changed sides. Above all, we remember the cascading murmur of rosaries being prayed, the passionate wailing of the opposition anthem "Bayan Ko" being sung.

We remember the feel: the cool days, the chilly nights. (Does the weather cooperated with the Edsa Revolution. After years of the Marcos personality cult, which extended to so-called Marcos weather—it is rather hard to believe, but there was a time when every mother nature was supposed to have done the bidding of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos, and guaranteed him sunny skies on his public appearances—it was liberating to say that the weather was now "on our side.") We remember the steadiness, a consciousness that Marcos' troops could still attack and that therefore danger was real; an awareness that history was being made, and we were all involved in its making; not least, a sense that, on Edsa, everyone was, genuinely, even if only temporarily, equal.

The four days of Edsa—from Saturday, Feb. 22 to Tuesday, Feb. 25—were truly glorious, a shining moment in our history. The happy revolution succeeded; this was, this is, the bottom-line basis of Edsa's glory. The dictator was ousted, an entirely new government took over, democracy was restored.

But the Edsa Revolution was also an authentically "happy" one: peaceful, orderly, prayerful, compassionate (we will never forget the sight of civilians offering food and flowers to weary, war-hardened Marines) and above all popular, participatory. This is Edsa's longer-lasting claim to glory. We coined the phrase "people power" (as it happens, an Inquirer editorial first used it on Dec. 13, 1985, more than two months before the Edsa Revolution)—and then we showed the world what we meant by it.

Twenty-five years later, and thanks in large part to the successful 18-day revolution in Egypt which led to the ouster of another dictator, we remember Edsa 1986 with hearts burning, again, with pride. Sometimes, the almost ritual self-flagellation we Filipinos like to inflict on ourselves prevents us from seeing the plain truth. But during at least two defining moments in our history, we outdid ourselves, and showed a path for the rest of the world.

In 1898, we were the first in all of Asia to establish a republic. And in 1986 we were the first in modern history to stage a people power revolution. True, much unfinished business remains—but the reality is we have been given the gift of a great start. It is a wonderful legacy we can use to our advantage, if only we put our minds to it and our shoulders to history's wheel.

We remember.

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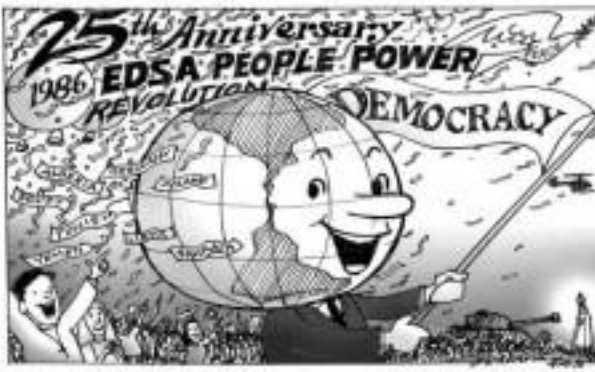


A mockery of the glory of 1986 People Power

(This is a continuation of a letter to President Aquino from a group of political, business, educational and religious leader opposing the reappointment of Gov. Amando Tetangco of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) whose term expires in July.)

"6. EDSA II: THE return of Governor Tetangco, government insisted, through mismanagement of foreign exchange transactions, massive losses in defending the curbing of the peso against the ascendancy dollar, by propping up the value of the 45% currency to preserve the cheap cost of the peso from increased dollar remittances, the BSP lost billions in the first six months of 2010, in the year 2009 and 2008 and a staggering higher amounts in billions of losses in 2007. This depleted our already sagging GDPG and drained families of the benefits of an improved purchasing power of the peso. Such lucky amounts would have been used to reduce our budget deficit, or for vital infrastructure projects that would encourage foreign investors to invest in our country for improved opportunities and evidence shown to demand for local commodities.

"Tetangco's recent policies were only to palliate circumstances of mobilizing cost-way values in a tenuous situation, whereas his past performance under a precarious and fragile economic environment like the Philippines. In fact, those kinds of foreign exchange losses were instrumental in pressing the predecessor of our BSP insolvent.

"Tetangco's policies of the Governor's Department are not essential to achieving stability and continuity in our monetary system. On the contrary, he has failed to deal with the issue basic and alarming case of our nation's instability—the widening gap between the rich and the poor. We need a transformative BSP leadership who will liberate the country from the economic stagnation that has unjustly held our people captive of poverty for too long."

* * *

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

As late celebrants the 25th anniversary of the 1986 People Power Revolution, time screaming gloss of the Philippines that is currently being suffocated in Middle Eastern countries ruled by dictators and monarchs, paradoxically, there are more officers in the military and police than in the remains of the hated Marcos, the dictator who was deposed by that revolution, to be hacked at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, thus hallowed ground reserved for heroes. This is an apostasy, a mortal sin that would not only make the heroes buried in the Libingan rise in protest, but also make the glory of People Power a mockery. How such a profane line, are we ourselves lulling such an achievement and telling the world that we made a mistake?

How quickly people forget.

* * *

Here is the latest in the court fight between ABS-CBN and Willie Revillame over the television show "Willing Willie." The Court of Appeals justice who granted the temporary restraining order (TRO) against ABS-CBN has disqualified himself from the case for conflict of interest.

ABS-CBN has accused Revillame of being a copycat. It's show "Willing Willie" now airing on Channel 5 is a copy of ABS-CBN's highly successful show "Wowowee," it said.

As breaking this screenshot, ABS-CBN must have been ready to back it and build evidence. In fact, it has begun doing it.

But last year, Revillame obtained a 60-day TRO from the CA to stop the reception of evidence by the Makati Regional Trial Court hearing the copyright infringement case.

Why did Willie snap the permanence of evidence? His defense logic: If Revillame is not worried about the originality of "Willing Willie," why is he stopping ABS-CBN from presenting its evidence? Is he immune from well-meant the evidence to be immediately brought to light to clear his name of the accusation? Only the guilty are scared of the truth. Is Revillame scared that the evidence will prove him to be indeed a copycat?

The main member of the CA panel that issued the TRO have all since given up on the controversial case. The TRO has since lapsed. A new panel composed of CA Presiding Justice Andres Reyes Jr., Justice Japar Dimaampao and Associate Justice Lucenito Tagle is hearing the case.

* * *

Why does P-Noy want to postpone the elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao? Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo said the postponement was requested by former Abbild officials themselves. The reason for the postponement is instantly obvious: the incumbent officials want to extend their terms of office by staying as holdover officials.

Why are they requesting the postponement in the proposed? Many of the officials in Abbild, especially Maguindanao, belong to the Arroyo-pleasant clan, now being ruled for the disqualification measure. Does P-Noy want them to stay in office as his stalwart elections for at least another two years?

There against the postponement claim **that the President has no authority** to postpone the elections. Neither is he authorized to appoint officers to take places to replace the unqualified officials.

Former Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Rep. Simeon Kintanar and election lawyer Romulo Macalintal told the Kapihan in Manila last Monday that a law now is before Congress for ARMM elections. So the House is considering a bill saving a new date for the elections. Those opposed said the majority is railroading the bill and walked out of the House session.

Edsa mis-remembered

Passion for Reason

Raul C. Pangalangan

WE MUST have been celebrating the Edsa Revolution for all the wrong reasons all along. It is a mistake to celebrate it as a "Near-Death Revolution," a mistake none was it wasn't, because we mustn't isolate the Edsa moment from the mass movements that led to Sumulong. And if indeed it was a brief four-day celebration, then we must have been celebrating the very limits military that sanctified the dictatorship for a decade and a half.

Either way, to pop the magic at four days drowns the Filipino's short memory, and for short memories cause an evil, one that Filipinos do the drama among elite players rather than seek nourishing of faceless millions.

Mass uprisings are merely the final swelling up of discernible boiling under repressive grievances. Contrary to popular belief, the person—that's one feature that democracies offer and that dictatory can't, precisely because dictators prefer to limit to palace insiders who wouldn't tell the emperor that he has no clothes.

Edsa I did not begin on Feb. 22, 1986. It began on the humid night in April 1970 when there was a noise barrage in Manila after the first parliamentary elections under martial law by the late Sen. Ramon Mitra, Sr. When Aquino's group succeeded in getting Lakas party to endorse by the Ilocano Bagong Lipunan slate led by Imelda Marcos and Cardinal Sin, you can do not see any reason from that same barrage that the leaders used as journals to Edsa that merged blind citizens into the traditional political elite as virgin, namely, the flawed elections, and even some familiar figures like Nene Aquino.

Until then, the options were purely political: namely reform through elections and resistance of politicians, or armed revolution under a vanguard party with a centralized command. The noise barrage was powerful if unobstructive, but not quite non-violent. The historical trigger was accordion. Mitra's dam represented the faithful clinging to the remnants of our democratic tradition. And—just like at Edsa I eight years later—those mass groups didn't really enjoy the blessings of the guide of the Communist Party.

We can also chase to beginnings to Aug. 21, 1983 when Ninoy Aquino was shot at the airport's tarmac. Or Aug. 31 when mass uprisings greeted martial law 11 hours under ten and rain all 50 kilometers from the Ayo Domingo Church to the Manila Memorial Park. Again, the Edsa I complex. One dramatic moment, is provoked outrage in a people's revolution, but outrage in a president's suffering martyr outrage ideological bulldozer. Justice for Aquino, justice for all, is give unorganized multitudes an occasion to locate the distance to work.

Fast forward to Feb. 7, 1986 when the now famous "snap election" pitted the honorable Cory Aquino against the arrogant Ferdinand Marcos, and what erupted was the Filipino people's prevented presence. The formula, used and remixed in Edsa I and 1983, must repeat itself.

Former President Fidel Ramos said, in the words of the hosts boasting, that the "military boat" must honor its way people power crash." Looking at the people power rebellions in the Arab world, Edsa I would have dropped on beyond four days and demanded less morally observance. That is part of the failure, the avoidance of Edsa I in 2001, and which we copied in Edsa II in 2001. Remember, we share a downside to overzealous democracy.

"So pala, no guns." Military intervention enables the present but it also dulls the psyche of the people. Cory Aquino couldn't govern and investigate the human rights abuses in 14 years of martial rule because her newfound alliance had to be tenuously silent. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo was in Cory's Baptist but even had the arrogance to declare that she was glad she served, due to the "mandate" of Edsa II, and finally remained by her own generals.

Taking the "revolutionary military" shortcut between the human costs of ousting dictators but it also dissipates the victory it encourages mass ownership accountability. It functions to portray the "forgive and forget" and "let's move forward" mindset. It dampens the zeal of genuine reformers, who now must stand to the prosecution of those who were quick to ask forgiveness. It is the reason why Marcos' cronies, individuals being sentenced

Military hijacks Edsa 1 commemoration

ANALYSIS

Armando Doronila

From key figures of the 1986 People Power revolution marked the 25th anniversary of the event on Tuesday, Feb. 22, with a rare reunion not at Edsa but at the Department of National Defense in Camp Aguinaldo, where the military leaders proclaimed their relationship from the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos.

The event's commemoration of the events leading to the overthrow of the Marcos regime four days after the uprising was thought until yesterday that the last escape politic notice. Apart from the terms of the commemoration, the strategic thrust of the group that held the reunion highlights to the fact that the military was more represented in that occasion. The military composition—Marcos' defense minister Juan Ponce Enrile, then chief of the Philippine Constabulary and AFP Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Fidel Ramos, and then Lt. Col. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, leader of the RAM (Reform the Armed Forces Movement), dominated the narrative of the commemoration with their views of what was supposed to be people's event, although President Benigno Aquino III led the throng, representing his mother, Cory Aquino, who was one of the four key figures in the revolution, the others being the late Jaime Cardinal Sin, Enrile's boss Enrile and Ramos. The Catholic Church, which was the moral force behind the revolution in its time and it lowered to raise to was almost invisible, and its presence invisible) until the conspiracy of rulers claiming credit in deposing Marcos or in galvanizing people power to depose him in the four days of February 1986.

It should be noted that unlike his mother, Pres. Aquino chose to celebrate the event with Enrile and Ramos inside the DND enclosure most where the two had announced their defection from the Marcos regime and called for his resignation. Cory as president, head of the military behind her by Enrile and Ramos, to hold her oath-taking at Camp Crame, the center of the revolt against Marcos.

With the dominance of the false narrative by the military versus, with their recollections of the events leading to the capture of Marcos, the distortion reality, Feb. 25, of the basic cross of power in the civilian segment (people power) of the revolution, the climax of street uprising, has become and eliminate. The recollections of the key military figures—Ramos, Enrile, Honasan—have their interpretations published in the last couple of past three days) hardly mentioned the importance of the unarmed people on Edsa in toppling Marcos. Those were the people (everyone who was at Edsa) marching en foot on the highway running their lives into the Crisostomo-Aurmos tanks and turning to retard Camp Crame.

In addition to the recollections of civilians of that epic event (see those of Agapito "Boy" Aquino, brother of the martyred Benigno Aquino Jr., and several civilian eyewitnesses from the vantage of the tanks), not from the objective perspective of power) help tip the balance in evaluating the contributions of the various sectors of Philippine society in the success of the Edsa Revolution.

Today's dominance of Cardinal Sin will be intensified, not on Edsa, but at the Shrine of Mary Queen and St. Basilicata Church in Manila, through the one man of Mayor Alfredo Lim, who chose not to use the Manila police to help Ethiat "Ati, Marcos' chief of staff, crush the uprising rebellion at Camp Crame and the Aguinaldo Headquarters of the Reform-the-Armed-Forces Movement led by Enrile, Ramos and Honasan. Lim did not make his complicity forgotten in this 25th anniversary in fact, he is moving great to his due—not to the soldiers.

The role of Lim in Edsa 1 has surprised briefly in the attention by Georgetown University where it conferred on him an honorary degree in 1986. It says: "In honoring this contemporary Prince of Peace, Georgetown recognizes a powerful symbol of Christian compassion and a steadfast witness with likewise has never an accomplice, ever the passionate promoter but never the reckless rebel, an inspiration to the fearful and the unafraid ... by minding us masterfully that authority is service, politics can be priestly, and man/public might be inspired that she loved."

This is credited with the Church policy of "total reconciliation" (or "calculation" in French) with the Marcos regime.

There is now Camp Aguinaldo on Edsa a Pro-people House museum, which looks like a memorial pretense showing Lilliputian people rising up to arms. Inaugurated last Tuesday was the refurbished conference room at the DND which had been converted into a museum exhibiting memorabilia confiscated by Enrile, Ramos and Honasan, including photographs of the jaws conference where they announced their defection and their uniforms.

The revisionist outlook of Edsa was articulated by Ramos who just thwarted the theme that any people power uprising would be permeated and blood until it has been of the social by those breaks way from the government and joins the protesters on the streets. So was speaking in reference to the non-violent nature of Edsa. Speaking at the Edsa Shrine, Ramos said: "Let us pray for the repose of the uprising in Libya against strongman Moammar Gadhafi, Ramos said, "what we really need is a split in the police and military ranks, when a tyrant decides to join people in the streets." He said that the protest movements he held with Enrile at the DND was the "spark" that ignited the People Power Revolution.

The conference session for left unanswered: is to being ceased to be unfolding events as it does.

Velvet revolutions

WITH THE recent events underway in Egypt and the ongoing revolutions in neighboring Arab countries, I have seen numerous articles in our papers talking about how the Arabs might want to learn from us by way of successfully mobilizing people power as well as, by negative example, what not to do in order to avoid a counterrevolutionary situation.

I worry at times about what borders on conspiracy theories—almost as if our revolution was unique to us because we're Filipinos, and that it will remain in a vacuum for similar revolutions. I have only heard claims that we are the "first" people power revolution in the world, even though we know it's not. Our "EDSA effect," where media coverage makes it possible to wrestle, live, dramatic events—even those happening thousands of miles away. CNN's international reach was well known but the world did get to see the Edsa Revolution and to be inspired.

We have reason to be proud of Edsa for we also need to recognize that many other countries had similar events. The late-Czech Dissenty Centre Ash had an excellent article, "The Velvet Revolution—Prospero," in the New York Review of Books in 2000, which gives a better perspective of our own Edsa Revolution. The velvet revolution was first coined to describe the 1989 Czech revolt against the Soviets and then used for the other Eastern European revolts that quickly followed. But Ash correctly points out that there were many "velvet revolutions" before 1989. He mentions the "Revolution of the Carnations" in Portugal in 1974, which led to the fall of an authoritarian government that had held power for more than 40 years. The Philippines is mentioned for our "People Power" in 1986.

Poem, 1789 to 1989

Ash juxtaposes 1989 with 1789, the latter date referring to the famous French Revolution, which was coined for such epithets like those of Bosnia and China. (coined) said here the many ways for national independence after World War II, which were often long-drawn guerrilla movements that continuing lives.

All these revolutions were class-based, and had charismatic leaders, with clearly articulated views on what they opposed (usually a monarchy, or a colonial ruler) as well as a vision (often utopian) for the future. The violent revolutions always had a high point, such as the execution of former rulers.

In contrast, the velvet revolutions were generally non-violent, although, as we are seeing now in the Arab world, the basic rules responsible with force and violence, resulting in many deaths.

To be successful, these revolutionaries had to be focused, of, was focused on outcomes—what strikes me, thinking back over all of these velvet revolutions, is that they were widely quite of an were classes, full of pageantry and color (although often with one special color that unites for him). The words had to draw too, from basic cultures, to our ears, it was Filipino colorfully, the Edsa revolt when looking more like a picture rally, with ordinary people bringing food to soldiers.

The mobilization was also needed to be intensified in meeting for places or spaces, for the later German velvet revolution, it was the Berlin Wall. For us, it was Camp Aguinaldo. For Egypt recently, it was Tahrir Square in Cairo, "Tahrir" meaning liberation.

Velvet revolutions answered ideologies, by laying together broad coalitions of political parties, as well as people who are put fed up with aging regimes. Our own Marcos era, extending 21 years, seemed excruciating, but compare that with 30 years of Suharto in Indonesia or 40 years of Gaddafi in Libya.

Painless

What is there to learn then from the common experiences of velvet revolutions?

What people tend to appreciate the most is that a change of political regimes is possible without the bloodshed loss of life, and with manageable property damage. Velvet revolutions seem almost painless; we wonder, we were back to Edsa again to overthrow tonight Tunisia—and ended up with Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

There are downsides to these velvet revolutions. Ash refers to the way people become quickly disaffected after awhile, wanting more change, and wondering if they have simply replaced an old elite with a new one.

My main concern about Edsa and velvet revolutions is that we begin to think that actual significant change occurs with that one event. We need to acknowledge, which can occur quickly, with social change, which always requires much more time.

There is also the danger of public "fatigue" developing around these events. We begin to believe that the events were spontaneous and, in the Philippines, decisively inspired and protected. We forget that many people who came into the streets were already "commitmented" (an old term referring to people with political consciousness) and organized by various political parties and groups.

Revolutions don't just happen, they have to be triggered. Can you imagine if Mohamed Bouazizi had shrugged off his self-immolation as a trigger, where despair took a gamble and rallied the downtrodden, thinking that they would try the same and get another week, but ended up being wood out of office. They have resisted, leading to protests and more fatalities.

But we can't underestimate the revolutionary moment because of growing discontent. On the Arab world today, rising prices of essential goods have played a major role in sparking the revolts. In Indonesia, Suharto's fall came about in part because of the "Asian flu," the regional economic crisis. In Egypt in 2008, it was the food crisis that began bringing out the discontent from internal conflicts and problems. People in particularly interesting because a blanket party gave rise a bloody 13-year armed struggle in run in elections, and arms.)

Our own Edsa Revolution demonstrated how different factors converge. On the surface, it was election rigging that tipped the scale, but there were many serious class issues we grew: a plundered economy, a mangled political system, bilateral decades-long battle, the tyrant of and accumulation of Marcos Agenda. In other words, Edsa was not some kind of spontaneous combustion.

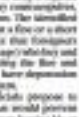
Because of many triggering factors, velvet revolutions have to live with a kind of hang-over after the events: our country's own is that no old problems have people may long for the old order, or even the overthrown dictator. Old problems fester, and people may long for a return to the ancient regime, or look for a new messiah offering an even bigger. Other players, notably the military and religious institutions or parties, try to fill the vacuum, peddling their solutions.

This is where we need to learn as well from our experiences of the new democracies around the world on how they handled the situation after their velvet revolutions.

Email: mmo@inquirer.com.ph

Coercion in Ayala Alabang

AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

JUSTICES after writing about "reproductive coercion" in the United States, have come across about a development in our own country in which "reproductive coercion" is being carried out not just by a single male or a group of males, but by the bureaucracy, wound itself.

"Reproductive coercion" refers to the use of violence, threats or intimidation by their female partner to refuse to "sabotage" the woman's efforts to prevent pregnancy or to force them to become pregnant—against their will.

Now it must the harrowing account of Anita Belen, 36, to be chilling. Afflicted from herpes (it can still be a wealthy real estate developer), is often making a illegal for anyone—man or woman—to use "deceit, force and other coercive means" to prevent pregnancy.

Belen's case is "reproductive coercion" taken to the nth degree, for the ordinance defines "coercive means" as including "reproductive coercion" in being carried out not just by a single male or a group of males, but by the bureaucracy

Unforgettable Edsa 'face-off'

If PNOY is the kind who lords it over or drives to go to Edsa for some stopped at Ortigas.

It was about 8 p.m. We—my family and some neighbors—had just returned the Guadalupe Bridge coming from Pandiligan on our way to Ortigas to join the demonstration there. Just after we went up the incline from the bridge, I saw a tank stop on the opposite lane with about five soldiers milling around it. I stopped my car—there was practically no traffic at the time—and walked over to the other side.

While I believed that they could not have come from no crime plans but Ortigas, I still asked the soldier nearest me, "Sana kayo galing?"

His answer, "Galing kami sa Mindanao," caught me off-guard but I asked him again, "Hindi ba kayo galing sa Ortigas?"

To which he said, "Oo."

So I asked him, "Eh, anong ginagawa?"

His answer, spoken softly—"Kapatas Pilipino, eh"—always brings tears to my eyes whenever I recall it.

—CARMELO S. ORMEÑETA, 43-B Clover Road, San Isidro Subdivision, Parañaque City

Outside help for rehab of Dingras church welcome

THE IS in response to the article titled "Filmdo dreads rehab rights Dingras bells." (Inquirer, 2/1/11)

The rehabilitation of the Dingras church has been going on since the 1880s when the parishioners decided that they needed a church bigger than the one built after the 1859 earthquake, which destroyed the old church. In 2000 the parish priest reported that the church had declared the façade "a danger to life and limb," so it was decided that to be restored. Officials of the National Historical Institute (NHI)—now National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP)—were so Dingras on May 2, 2000 to inspect the church and confirm public hearings. It was decided that the rehabilitation of the façade would have two objectives: restore a safe place of worship for the people of Dingras, and ensure that the architectural details be restored to resemble the old façade as closely as possible.

For this purpose, the advice of NHCP officials (expert structural engineer Dr. Eleuterio "Lito" Catane and architect Cherisse V. Tinoftin) was sought. On their recommendations, and bearing that documents and drawings of the church by Architect Ferdinand Hermosa were also undertaken. The structural and architectural designs were presented several times, submitted to the NHCP and subsequently approved in September 2010.

The plan was to be implemented in three phases: the removal of the non-original portions of the façade to avoid any accident but saving as much bricks as possible for reuse in the restoration of the façade when we implement the last phase; rebuild the wall including a door; and finally the repaint, and restore the architectural details of the façade.

It is easy to say that the "church would have been preserved as is done in other countries or if only it had not burned up." We are aware that the Heritage Conservation Society (HCS) is suggesting that we keep the church "in ruins," however, we have an urgent need for a church for our worship and not a tourist attraction.

Besides, we have been advised by the engineers that the church is in danger of collapsing if we do not undertake the rehabilitation soon. We left the church in ruins for around 30 years, but the parishioners made a decision to no longer have mortuary services. We left the church in ruins for around 30 years, but the parishioners made a decision to no longer have mortuary services. We left the church in ruins for around 30 years, but the parishioners made a decision to no longer have mortuary services.

The Philippines is a tropical country. If we did not rehabilitate the church it would have surely crumbled to dust by now.

"Burning up" is exactly what we were trying to do except that many parts are too weak to be shored up. We actually scandalized some more orthodoxy due to the uncommon heated arc engraving (someone PINE stalked) and we would not have been able to afford it. We wish the HCS, especially Consuelo Shaw (who claims to be from Dingras) and her benefactors would conserve one structure.

The people of Dingras are not "ignorant." We may not be rich but we are not cultural philistines. We love our country and cherish our heritage as much as any other Filipino.

—ESTER S. GARCIA, chairman, board of trustees, St. Joseph of Dingras Foundation Inc., 113 Kinabalan St., Lauriville II, QC

'Oily' get-rich-quick scheme using gasoline stations

IF YOU want a maximum return on investments, operate like a gasoline station dealership. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain. With the Department of Energy (DOE) deregulating oil prices, the oil companies can increase your income beyond measure.

In my locality, whenever the media (including print, which means PR-boost-free) announces in the evening that the price of oil has increased, the dealers would automatically increase oil prices only the next day. But when the price decreases, they would intentionally ignore it. And when a increases again a day or two after, say by P0.50, the dealers would add it to the current price, disregarding altogether the reimplemented decrease.

Thus this is being done to other towns and cities is not far-fetched.

Motorists can't do anything against gasoline stations, which behave like a cartel and come up with the same justifications when the price increases, they sell at the old price using their old stock; the old inventory when it decreases, they sell at the new price saying their stock is current.

—FRANK T. CARANDANG, 267 Lopez St., Gubat, Eastern Samar

LETTERS

Justice still eludes Marcos victims

AS WE commemorate the 25th year of our country's return to democracy, I only have one wish—for the victims of human rights violations to get justice and be compensated for what the State has done to them during the dark years of martial law.

I once chair of the Committee on Human Rights last Congress where I opposed attempts to pass a law preventing the victims to continue pursue their claims and their loss. Any claim is fought. My heart bled for the ugly scenes and sad stories I placed for Congress to law-track the passage of this measure...for the people who spent most of their productive life fighting the dictatorship. They were brainwashed, tortured and some lucky or have survived to tell their stories. I share their wrenching is the agony suffered enough by the surviving families of those who have died, of those who have disappeared...because their loved ones chose to live their lives in the pursuit of justice and freedom.

In the last Congress, we had a thorough study of representation of a congressional district. This Congress, we have a Marcos cousin who is a member of the Senate, and another in the House of Representatives.

The presence of these historians in both chambers of Congress should in no way prevent the State from compensating those who deserve to be compensated. We owe them for the democracy we are blessed with today. I sympathized that with a Benigno Simeon Aquino III as president, we can take the necessary steps toward granting justice for the victims rightly deserve.

—LORENZO "ERIN" S. TAÑADA III, deputy speaker, House of Representatives

Worse than the Garcia plea bargain

WHILE CONGRESS is into probing compromise deals that enjoyed MV "pathway" and "pandelivery" ranging from P80 million to P300 million, we dare the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee and the House Committee on Appropriations as well as congressional agencies renewed into by the National Power Corp. (Napocor) anti-Marubeni. This agreement would write down a P66.4 billion liability of Meralco to only P14,818 billion—literally throwing more than 66 billion pesos "gratis et nullo" amount of P52,481 billion that such stopped Napocor receivable needs.

In November 2003, Meralco and Napocor signed a 10-year contract on Supply Electricity (CSE) with a fixed annual returns and for a fixed price for 2004-2006. When the super-normal generation companies started operating around 2001, the then Napocor-managed Meralco stalled in power purchase to let the Legal companies, contrary to their commercial interest to fear from Napocor. At the prodding of consumers, and stuck with a growing stranded capacity, Napocor eventually killed Meralco under the full terms of their contract, invoking the minimum off-take-required clause.

A compromise or settlement agreement (SA) was arrived after tortuous negotiations. But apparently not happy at all with the very substantial write down, Meralco, with Napocor, sought the approval of the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) to charge the full amounts of their P54,318.8 billion SA to Meralco's captive customers! In single bare bone approved but an Ombudsman caution bent filed by the late Judge Guillermo del Llano in November 2003.)

The Office of the Solicitor General (OSG), asserting its role as advisor of the people, intervened against recovery as well as a unique, major agreements entered into by the National Power Corp. (Napocor) anti-Meralco

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

In 3 PH areas, mercury poisons air, says study

BAGUIO CITY—In some places in the Philippines, breathing would be like committing suicide.

The air in some mined-over communities in three provinces, a study presented in here said, has been poisoned by one of the earth's most toxic chemical elements—mercury.

According to the study, released here on Wednesday, levels of mercury vapor in some mining communities in Benguet, Camarines Norte and Palawan were higher by 30 times than levels that are considered safe.

While the presence of a minute amount of mercury in the air is not fatal, inhalation of it in the air in these places were unusually high.

Lawyer Roberto Gonzalez, executive director of the Basel Action Network (BAN), said his group scanned random parts of the country, including areas near Mabuhay, using a portable mercury analyzer between the latter part of 2010 and the early part of 2011.

No detection

Based on its findings, BAN said it believed the government is unable to detect high levels of mercury circulating in the atmosphere, he said.

BAN is a Basel-based organization behind a campaign to eliminate mercury (present in industries and household items).

The BAN study said mercury vapor was detected in the air even in places where there are no known human activity involving the use of mercury, like Mabuchalang Palawan.

"Mercury vapor was detected in small concentrations even in areas with no known or alleged use of mercury," the study said.

"President Aquino could be out in the yard of Malacañang Palace strolling and he is already inhaling 7.9 nanograms per cubic meter of mercury vapor," Gonzalez said.

It was in the presentation of the BAN report entitled "Chasing Mercury: Measuring Mercury Levels in Air Across the Philippines."

Mercury is a rare toxic metal that reacts even liquid. It has been used for common household items like thermometers and for extracting gold and silver in small-scale mining outfits.

Safe levels

According to Gonzalez, the United States Environmental Protection Agency ranks 900 ng/cm of mercury vapor as safe. At 30,000 ng/cm, immediate evacuation of communities is recommended.

Dr. Buenaventy Malaquit, in Parañaque, Carmarines Norte, the average reading for mercury vapor in the air was 14,075.3 ng/cm and the highest level was 30,000 ng/cm, according to the BAN study, quoting results of tests done from 24–25 last year.

Malaquit's residential area had an average reading of 2067 ng/cm of mercury vapor and a maximum reading of 5,516.2 ng/cm, the BAN study said.

"In mining areas, mercury contamination increased dramatically during operations when mercury was used," said Gonzalez. He said dangerous levels of mercury "have been detected even when the operations have terminated."

The same study said Sitio Pulang Lupa in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, has as much as 1,480.8 ng/cm of mercury vapor in the air because it was once an abandoned mine that used to extract mercury, Gonzalez said.

He said while mercury in the air is a natural occurrence, "the highest mercury vapor concentrations were found in mine where mercury was being used or mined."

Puzzling

High mercury levels in urban areas with no contact with mercury was puzzling, he added.

Lorraine Bautista, president of Benguet Federation of Small-Scale Miners Inc. said the BAN findings were not surprising.

In the barracks of members of porker miners and mining firm Benguet Corp. in Camp 9 in Itogon, Benguet, the BAN study said tests made from Dec. 21 to 22 last year showed a reading of a maximum 30,000 ng/cm of mercury vapor in the air and an average of 3,751.8 ng/cm.

Mercury are to mere concerns to small-scale mining operations, however. Large-scale mining firms abandoned mercury use in favor of cyanide.

Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

IN THE KNOW

Mercury Poisoning

MERCURY is a naturally occurring element found in air, water and soil that can be poisonous in high doses. Toxic effects include damages to the brain, kidney and lungs.

Traditionally used in consumer products like thermometers, switches and light bulbs, mercury can be found at home, at schools and at the dentist.

Improper disposal can lead to contamination. This may mean the formation of methylmercury, a highly toxic form that builds up in fish, elemental mercury, which produces mercury vapor; and inorganic and organic mercury compounds, which damages the gastrointestinal tract, the nervous system and the kidneys, all of which have effects on human health.

Symptoms of mercury poisoning may include headaches, insomnia, memory loss, mood swings, irritability and impairment of speech, hearing, walking. At higher doses, it could cause kidney and respiratory failure and death.

Outbreaks of methylmercury poisoning occurred in several places in Japan, particularly in Minamata and Niigata during the 1950s. The outbreaks were said to have been caused by industrial discharges of mercury into coastal waters and rivers which contaminated the fish that were consumed by local residents. *Inquirer Research*

A POLICEMAN takes a closer look at the burned car owned by car dealer Emerson Lozano, who was murdered by a car theft syndicate believed led by the Dantiguzan brothers. The carnas found in Bataan last month.

Another car theft warehouse found

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—The police's Highway Patrol Group (HPG) has discovered another warehouse suspected of being used by car theft syndicates in their operations.

This is the ninth car theft facility to be discovered in Pampanga since January on the heels of the murders of two car dealers from Metro Manila.

Shown to media on Wednesday, the warehouse spans 10 by 30 meters. Inside, the police inventory indicated it had been storing five vehicles and various dismantled parts of motor vehicles.

The warehouse is on 22 Ibarra St. in Dinalo, Mabalacat town in this Pampanga capital.

It was leased to Mark Lester Reyes in 2009, said Senior Insp. Sheldon Jacobus, HPG Central Luzon director.

Reyes, who is in his 40s, was arrested in Iriga, Pampanga, on Feb. 22, but he was charged with illegal gun possession after an unlicensed pistol was recovered from him.

Jacobus said a pickup truck found in the warehouse was confirmed to have been stolen, based on a complaint filed by its owner. The truck was stolen from south of Manila last year.

Jacobus said investigators are still determining if Reyes was connected with the suspected car theft activities of Roger Dantiguzan and his brother Raymund, who are both detained for the murder of Emerson Gonquilos and Honorio Lozano, both car dealers.

Jacobus said Reyes, a car mechanic, claimed that he used the warehouse as his shop.

"Some men approached him last year and paid him thrice the amount of the rent," Jacobus said.

Jacobus said the same men used Reyes' own tools to tear down the vehicles stored there.

The neighbors complained of noise from the warehouse and its late night operations, the barangay said. *Tarsicio Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

24-hour watch for crimes, floods starts in Batangas town

By Marian Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

SAN TOMAS, Batangas—This town rolled out the first 17 cameras to watch key areas in the municipality against crimes and speed up official response time during disasters.

Mrs. Tomas Mayor Renato Federico said closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras were installed in busy intersections and main roads in monitoring centers against street crimes and criminals, such as flooding.

The CCTV cameras were installed last week—10 at the four villages of the town proper and seven at the neighboring villages of San Miguel and San Beato.

The first Tomas public market, on the town's main road, is a sprawling complex that also serves as a landmark to the municipality.

The cameras would also be useful in the monitoring of school children, especially during the pre-dawn hours, the mayor said.

Federico said a command center integrating all video captured by the CCTV cameras, which is manned by policemen and civilian volunteers, will also be created to watch the town around the clock.

BUY win
HYPERGROCER
HYPERMARKET
Here's something for everyone

Professor, student snatched in MSU released

ILIGAN CITY—A professor and a student snatched inside the campus of the government-run Mindanao State University (MSU) in Marawi City have been released, authorities said yesterday.

The victims were released to Piagapo town, Lanao del Sur past 3 p.m. yesterday, according to Dax Romeo, Seventh Day Adventist pastor. The two victims were also Seventh Day Adventists.

A team of negotiators, led by Mayor Ishad Salik of Marawi City, received the two victims.

Earlier, Chief Supt. Bienvenido Latag, police director for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao based in Maguindanao, said the victims—Cris Neil Gollen, 24, and Aubrey Vitualles, 19—were on their way to Victoden's dormitory on 7th Street when they were taken by gunmen past 6 p.m. on Saturday.

Latag confirmed the kidnappings hours after it took place.

He said in a phone interview that Gollen is a faculty member of Al Khawarizmi International College, also in Marawi City. Vitualles is a BS Information Technology student at the MSU.

Gollen is a native of Bugasan City and Vitualles hails from Tagoloan town in Misamis Oriental.

Latag said the victims were freed into a mosque in Piagapo town in Lanao del Sur.

Latag said the Lanao del Sur Crisis Management Committee had met on discuss plans for a rescue.

Col. Daniel A. Lucero, commander of the Army's 103rd Infantry Brigade based in Barotac City said soldiers and policemen had erected the blockheads of the province to locate the victims. Alyssa Lloyd, Inquirer Mindanao

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Cebu
BIDS and AWARDS COMMITTEE
Notice No. [illegible]; Tel. No. 555-6305

INVITATION TO BID

The Provincial Government of Cebu, through the 2010 Annual Budget intends to apply the sum of the [illegible] projects and copies as enumerated/supplied/described hereunder to which he eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of the following:

P/B No.	Item No.	Particulars	Purpose / Qty.	A.B.C. (Php)	Bid Fee (Php)
[illegible]	To Bidder	Medical Equipment / Medical Laboratory Supplies	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

(* Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.)

Issuing Source : Local Funds
Delivery Period : Within [illegible] days upon receipt of approved

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act." Bidders should have completed within two (2) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids a contract similar to the project (supported by the end-user's Contract/Purchase Order), the value of which is at least equivalent to fifty (50%) of the ABC. (Appended Budget of the Contract).

Bid documents relative to Eligibility Submission and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the guidelines/provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR-A).

The schedule of activities is listed as follows:

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	February 25 - March 9, 2011
2. Pre-Bid Conference	[illegible] Wednesday, 2:00 PM
3. Submission & Opening of Bids	March 10, 2011, Thursday, 9:00 AM
4. Bid Evaluation/Determination of LCB	March 10, 2011
5. Post-qualification of Lowest Bidder (LCB)	March 10, 2011
6. Approval of Recommend Notice of Award	March 10, 2011
7. Issuance of Purchase Order	March 11, 2011

A complete set of **Bidding Documents** will be available to interested bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee as indicated above to the Cash Receipts Division, Office of the Provincial Treasurer. The non-refundable fee shall be paid in Cash and in Manager's/Cashier's Check issued to a reputable commercial bank payable to the Province of Cebu. Only those who have purchased the bidding documents shall be entitled to attend the Pre-Bid Conference. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders and/or authorized representatives. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The Province of Cebu reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, **Ms. FLORA M. ABAÑES** (Name and Tel. No.)
Bids Secretariat
Cebu Provincial Government
3/F Bldg., Capitol Site, Cebu City
Tel. No. 253-0674

Atty. **[illegible]**
Chairman

(PEN - February 24 & 25, 2011)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Southern Leyte
CITY OF MAASIN
OFFICE OF THE CITY GENERAL SERVICES

INVITATION TO BID

The City of Maasin, City General Services Office, Tel. No. (053) 570-8888, invites interested Supplier/Contractors to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid:

Name of Project/s Location	Brgy. [illegible] Maasin City, Southern Leyte
Brief Description	Actual Breakdown of Work is to be as indicated in the Bid Form
Approved Budget for the Contract	P [illegible]
Delivery Period	within 7 calendar days after receipt of Notice of Award Signed Contract/Purchase Order.

Prospective Bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two year/s with the contract of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding, and have the experience and technical capability to undertake the project; available for the prosecution of the project. The bid minimum eligibility requirement is indicated in the Eligibility Survey. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall also be conducted using "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the guidelines/ provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The Supplier is required to submit their current approved licenses to operate and List of Services with Certificate Product Registration issued by the **BFAD-DOH** as mandated under Executive Order No. 6 s. 1968 as implemented by FDA Administrative Order Issued March 10, 1991. Together with this Bid during the opening of Bids scheduled below. Deficiencies in supporting any such certificate shall not be ground for its exclusion from the bidding process and/or disqualification of Bidder. Only the quality Drugs and Medical Supplies in registration for product registration and license certificates shall not be considered.

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	February 25, 2011
2. Pre-Bid Conference	February 28, 2011
3. Opening of Bids / Bidding Proper	March 1, 2011
4. Notice of Award	March 2, 2011

Bid documents will be available to prospective bidders upon payment of non-refundable amount of P5,000.00 to the City Treasurer's Office.

The City Government of Maasin reserves no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or in any way liable to any prospective bidder/s, irrespective of the outcome/s of the bidding process and also the right to accept or reject any bid, annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Approved by:

Engr. **LATTY PEDRILLO A. DEMETERIO, JR.**
CGSDO, EnP
BAC Chairman

(PEN - February 24 & 25, 2011)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Camiguin
Municipality of Mahinog
OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MAYOR

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Local Government Unit of Mahinog, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites all qualified suppliers or agents for eligibility and to submit / Award their Quotation/Proposal and as bids of Php [illegible] each.

DESCRIPTION	UNIT	QUANTITY
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall also be conducted.

Bid documents may be purchased by the interested bidders/suppliers at the BAC-Secretariat Technical Unit Office. Complete announcement is to be displayed at the bulletin of **PLEASE** at the Office of the Municipal Treasurer. The schedule of activities is listed as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. [illegible]	February 24 - March 7, 2011
2. Pre-bidding Conference	March 7, 2011 (10:00 AM)
3. Deadline of Submission of Bid Docs.	March 10, 2011 (10:00 AM)
4. Opening of Bids	March 10, 2011 (10:30 AM)
5. Bid Evaluation	March 10, 2011
6. Post-Qualification	March 10, 2011
7. Issuance of Notice of Award	March 10, 2011

Contract and qualifications should be accompanied by a Bid Security in a form or kind as mentioned in Section [illegible] of the Implementing Rules and Regulations. Bid Security shall be in the form of [illegible] Bonds, Cashier's/Manager's Check, Letter of Credit issued by a reputable bank or bonding company duly accredited by the Insurance Commission and must remain valid for a period of [illegible] days.

The [illegible] reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding or not award the contract without any liability to the affected bidder/s.

Engr. **ELMER A. MONDEJAR**
BAC Chairman

Attested:
Engr. **GERARDO M. TUBIG**
Municipal Mayor

(PEN - February 24 & 25, 2011)

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More funds for OFWs sought

By Mar S. Arguelles
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LEGAZPI CITY—Albay Gov. Joey Salceda on Thursday urged Congress to pass a P750-million supplemental budget to be used in repatriating overseas Filipino workers caught in armed conflict abroad.

He asked Congress to immediately act on passing the budget to finance repatriation of about 28,000 OFWs in Libya, Egypt, Bahrain and Yemen.

"What the country needs is a reactive front to address the problem and achieve a 'zero casualty' target for OFWs in the Middle East," Salceda said.

He said the fund would authorize President Aquino to negotiate and engage the services of international plane carriers to bring OFWs back to the country and provide other manpower services needed for the mass rescue of Filipino workers abroad.

Salceda said the Department of Labor and Employment has a P68-million available fund this year for OFW repatriation, which he said was not enough to finance the repatriation process.

The governor said during the Lebanon crisis in 2005, as House appropriations chair, he helped gain P924 million in funding for the repatriation of over 15,000 OFWs working in Lebanon.

Aside from the supplemental budget, Salceda proposed the creation of a National Solidarity Fund for OFWs.

He said the fund would be used solely for repatriation of OFWs caught in armed conflicts abroad.

Statistics show that there are 669,642 OFWs in the Middle East.

About 10,383 of them are in Libya, 35,083 in Bahrain; 1,417 in Yemen; and 483 in Egypt.

Passengers stranded for hours in Iloilo

By Nestor Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—Seventy-two passengers bound for Cebu have been stranded at the Iloilo airport for several hours on Thursday after a Cebu Pacific plane was delayed due to technical problems.

Cebu Pacific Flight 5J-161 was first set to leave Iloilo at 9:05 a.m. but its schedule was reset to 1:30 p.m. Another delay moved the schedule to 5:04 p.m.

Rosalie Gonzales, the airline's station head at the Iloilo airport, told the Inquirer that the Iloilo-Cebu flight was delayed because the plane's earlier flight from Cebu to Cagayan de Oro was also delayed due to "additional servicing."

Michelle de Guzman, Cebu Pacific corporate communication specialist, said in a phone interview that the plane received "minor" technical problems which required additional servicing from maintenance crew.

"We apologize for the inconvenience," De Guzman said.

Later passengers questioned the long delay and inability of the airline to provide a special flight for the stranded passengers.

Mayors link 'secret letters' to SC flip-flop

A GROUP of city mayors said their lawyers are asking Supreme Court justices to make public supposedly secret letters that the mayors said led to the court's flip-flop on the creation of 16 new cities.

Members of the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP) said the two letters—received by the Supreme Court on Jan. 19, 2010—might have contributed to the latest decision to reverse an earlier ruling that had ruled the laws creating the 16 new cities unconstitutional.

The letters bear the letterheads of Emilio Mendiola, lawyer who represented the 16 new cities in the SC, and Atty. Joseph Montgomery, counsel for the LCP.

Oscar Rodriguez, for his friends City Treasurer mayor and head of the LCP, said in a statement that he was puzzled over why the SC "suspiciously" kept from the public clearly after receiving the letters from Mendiola.

Rodriguez said the LCP's 122 members, all city mayors, thought the case was closed after the SC declared as unconstitutional on Nov. 10, 2009 the law that created the new cities.

In a ruling on that date, the SC said "no further pleadings shall be entertained."

On May 11, 2009, the SC filed an entry of judgment on the case and said the decision has become "final and executory."

Rodriguez said the decision was

HERNANI BRAGANZA, Mandaue City mayor and secretary general of the LCP, shows photocopies of the court resolutions that he said influenced the SC decision on 16 new cities. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

demand restored when, on June 30, 2009, the Department of Budget and Management reversed the financial status of the 16 new cities to municipalities in their latest Internal Allotment (IRA).

On Sept. 22, 2009, the Commission on Elections ruled that voters on the 16 towns "shall not vote to ratify the conversion of cities but to remain municipalities."

Muntinlupa to Isabela, Lanao, Cabadbaran City mayor and LCP vice chair, said the two letters never clearly designated to nullify the SC ruling on the case.

"How is complicity against the law—to write the court seeking a favorable decision," said Lanao. "To write the SC justices is on its own entirely wrong."

On Wednesday Rodriguez said 40 million Filipinos living in 122 cities would lose at least P17 billion a year in services and projects if 16 new cities would compete for increased IRA.

Rodriguez said the case for the economic under the recent Flip-Flop of the Supreme Court.

The new cities are Baybay in Leyte; Bogo in Cebu; Catbalogan in Samar; Tandag in Surigao del Sur; Borongan in Eastern Samar; Tayabas in Quezon; Lamitan in Basilan; Tabuk in Kalinga; Bayugan in Agusan del Sur; Iligan in Davao Oriental; Cabadbaran in Agusan del Norte; Carcar in Cebu; El Salvador in Misamis Oriental; and Bogo in Cebu.

The Supreme Court, voting on June, reversed itself on Feb. 15 and ruled that the laws creating these towns into cities were constitutional.

"There will be a reduction of services for city residents," said Rodriguez.

Citing an LCP study, Rodriguez said the 122 cities collected an annual loss of P50 million.

This lost amount would finance 1,000 projects yearly, he said.

Is P1.7 billion reduction in the annual budget for personnel services of a city may lead to the layoff of 11,000 city employees, he said. Dimarie Gracias, Inquirer Central Luzon

'Extravagant' costs of Cebu event comes under fire

By Edison A. Dalan Argallon
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—The 4-mass mayor of this city aroused the ire of some of state auditors after the city government spent almost double of what it did last year to celebrate the city's Charter Day.

Tomas Osmeña, former city mayor and now congressman, took his successor, Michael Rama, to task for spending P5.4 million for the same celebration. The city government, then under Osmeña, spent P2.7 million for the affair last year.

"I wished very hard as the city could have a surplus of P1 billion but Mike Rama is just throwing it away," Osmeña said.

At least P2.4 million of the amount was spent to pay for awards and dinner for employees at the posh Radisson Blu Hotel.

At least P500,000 was spent for dinner for 200 persons who attended the awards night, P300,000 was spent for 1,000 persons who attended the parade and more than P100,000 was spent for the fireworks display.

The city government was generous, too, in its awards. Aside from cash prizes, awardees were given all expense paid trips to anywhere in the Philippines, free use in resorts or hotels and P2,000 plaques.

Last year, the city government allocated P1 million for the awards, including cash prizes.

Rama defended the spending, saying it was the biggest one since a year and only improvements deserved pampering to boost their morale.

"We have gone for and we have performed for the past days. If they say that they deserve the best as well," he said.

PHOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION

PHOC

INVITATION TO BID (RE-BID)

PHOC Exploration Corporation (PHOC EC), through its 2011 Corporate Budget, intends to source Minimum Term Petroleum Concession Blocks (Right Limited Blocks) for Exploration, Development and Production Activities in the Philippines. To qualify for the Limited Blocks, interested parties are invited to submit their sealed bids for the Supply and Delivery of One (1) Unit Drilling Rig with Accessories, Tools and Equipment, Spare Parts, Consumables and Services (Drilling Rig) within the specified time frame. Failure to submit bids within the prescribed deadline shall automatically disqualify the bidder from participating in the bidding.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary standard criterion as provided in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidding is open to all interested bidders, whether local or foreign, subject to the conditions for eligibility provided in the IRR of RA 9184.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from PHOC EC's Procurement Department and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address indicated below during February 25, 2011 to March 11, 2011 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be acquired by interested bidders starting on February 25, 2011 from the address below upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (Php5,000.00). The bidder may purchase and submit its bid on the deadline stated below, or may also be represented by an agent on the authority of a duly notarized Special Power of Attorney (SPA). Bidding Documents will be issued only upon the presentation of the official receipt evidencing payment of the Bidding Documents fee. Bidders should present proof of their eligibility to participate in the bidding during the pre-bid conference, otherwise, their bids will not be accepted. Bidding Documents will be issued only upon the presentation of the official receipt evidencing payment of the Bidding Documents fee. Bidders should present proof of their eligibility to participate in the bidding during the pre-bid conference, otherwise, their bids will not be accepted.

For purposes of bidding security, PHOC EC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference at Makati 1, 2011, 2:00 PM at PHOC EC Board Room, Wing 2, Energy Center, Merritt Road Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Metro Manila, which shall be open to all interested bidders.

Sealed bids shall be received on or before 12 noon by the address below as indicated in March 21, 2011, 2:00 PM at PHOC EC Board Room, Wing 2, Energy Center, Merritt Road Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Metro Manila, which shall be open to all interested bidders.

For further information, please contact:

PHOC EC Procurement Division
c/o Ms. Rachel C. Mendoza or Ms. Ma B. Rivera
Wing 2, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel. No.: (02) 478-4888 or (02) 478-4744 / Fax: (02) 856-1376
Email: rmendoza@phoc.ec.ph

PHOC EC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

This publication is also posted in our website at www.phoc.ec.ph and in the PhilGEPS website at www.philgeps.gov.ph.

(SGD)
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

Date: 18 February 2011

BOH BINETAS BOHOLANO ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC. (BOHECO)

BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

The Bids Awards Committee (BAC) of the Bohol Electric Cooperative Inc. (BOHECO) through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites all to the below-listed lots for the supply and delivery of the following:

LOT I — SUBSTATION POWER TRANSFORMER
1 unit, 10/12.5MVA, 3 Phase, 60Hz with cooling accessories
69kV/13kV primary/13.2kV Secondary Wye-accordary, OLTC Tap Changer, BIC, standard Delta-Wye Tertiary rated at 2.5% of the BIL, preferred location is Tubigon, Bohol, detailed specifications are available on the bid documents.

LOT II — DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS
a. 10 units - 50kVA Transformer, Conventional type
b. 10 units - 100kVA Transformer, Conventional type
c. 3 units - 167kVA Transformer, Conventional type
d. 3 units - 250kVA Transformer, Conventional type
e. 3 units - 37.5kVA Transformer, Conventional type

It is required that the said transformer (Lot I) be already certified available in the PH Regulation at the date of the opening and not for Research in Mapan (75) days upon issuance of Purchase Order (PO) and within the prescribed Mapan (75) days after delivery.

Bidders are required to provide financing standard/s (Lot I) with terms/s (Lot II) in their purchase agreement with a minimum of five (5) years period.

Interested Bidders may purchase bidding documents from February 24 to March 10, 2011 at a non-refundable fee of Php 10,000.00/Lot I and Php 5,000.00 for Lot II. Bidders are required to attend a pre-bid conference and opening of sealed bids to be held at BOHECO Board Room, Brgy. San Roque, Tubigon, Bohol on March 10 & 11, 2011, 10:00 a.m. respectively.

Bidding schedules will be as follows:

Pre-bid Conference	March 10, 2011, 10:00 a.m.
Submission of Sealed Bids	March 11, 2011, 10:00 a.m.
Opening and Evaluation of Bids	March 11, 2011

BOHECO reserves the right to reject any or all bids without disclosing any reason. In any criminal defects or irregularities found in the bid or award and not as may be considered criminal and negligence in the Electric Cooperative.

(Sgd.) LUZ DP BURON
BAC Chairperson

(Sgd.) ATTY. EMMANUEL P. GARCIA
General Manager

Arsonists seen in Ampatuan house fire

DAVAO CITY—A mansion here owned by former Maguindanao governor Andal Ampatuan Jr. came under attack, suffering damages in a fire early yesterday that authorities said was set off by arsonists.

The fire was first in the 2:45 a.m. fire that damaged part of the Ampatuan mansion on Ilustre Street in Bonifacio Subdivision here, according to Supt. Antonio Rivera, spokesperson of the Davao City police.

A Mitsubishi Strada sports utility vehicle with license plate SBK-188 was damaged in the fire, Rivera said.

Insp. Rodolfo Mercilla, investigator of the Central Fire Station, said the seven suspects considered after firemen recovered a bottle that smelled of gasoline from the fire scene.

The said owner of the Ampatuan family residence—including Akbar, one of the former governor's sons, who lives in the house—was around when the fire took place.

THE SUV parked in the Ampatuan mansion was damaged during the fire. PHOTO COURTESY OF BOMBO RADYO DAVAO

Mercilla said only watchmen were around when the house was burned.

He said based on investigation, watchmen also claimed the fire was intentional.

"They are watchmen and had no access to conducting further investigation," Mercilla said.

He said police were still trying to determine the identities of the arsonists and their motives.

Andal Jr. is one of the persons accused in the 2009 Maguindanao massacre, in which 58 people, mostly journalists, were killed.

He is now arrested detainee, including a political rallies in Kidapawan, in the province where the city's old rich farmers lived, in Barangay Malasa.

Andal Jr.'s sons and daughters also own a house in Sasa in other posh subdivisions in the city. Dennis Jay Santos, Inquirer Mindanao

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Post harvest facility up soon

DIGOS CITY—A postharvest facility worth P196 million is rising in the town of Matanao, Davao del Sur, and expected to give at least 8,000 farmers in the province a place to process and store their products.

Gov. Douglas Cagas said the facility would help reduce postharvest loses, give farmers good returns and raise the quality of their harvests.

Davao del Sur is considered to be one of Southern Mindanao's granaries.

The facility, funded partly by the Japan International Cooperation Agency, is being built on a 1,700-square-meter lot in Matanao.

Mechanical dryers would be installed to shorten the drying time of palay and lessen losses to farmers.

Ramelo Illao, provincial agriculturist, said the plant would reduce postharvest losses by up to 20 percent, or about 2 million tons of rice per year.

In Davao City, the city government said it was finalizing a deal with a South Korean firm for the development of vegetable production areas. Orlando Dacoycoy, with a report from Judy Quiroz, Inquirer Mindanao

Now, lawyer suggests bullets were implants

By Jaime M. Aurelio

A DEFENSE lawyer in the Maguindanao massacre case yesterday raised the possibility that metal fragments recovered from the victims did not come from bullets but were surgical implants.

Lawyer Dicky Real posed this question yesterday to Dr. Rogelio Sandoval, a forensic expert of the National Bureau of Investigation who conducted the autopsies on the relatives of Esmail Ampatuan Jr., Ipil Mayor Datu Ismail Mangudadatu and Buluan Vice Mayor Datu Akmad Ampatuan, victims of the Nov. 23, 2009 massacre.

In his testimony on last autopsy of the two victims on Wednesday, Sandoval told Judge Jocelyn Solis-Reyes the two had died of multiple gunshot wounds.

Real asked Sandoval if, not being a ballistician, he could tell with certainty if the supposed metal fragments were from bullets or surgical implants.

"I am not a ballistician," Sandoval answered.

Earlier, Real had questioned Sandoval's conclusion that the injuries were likely sustained from a high-powered firearm, and not a homemade gun, when he was not a ballistics expert.

The forensic expert said he was not able to see the results of the ballistics examination as these were subsequently forwarded to Camp Crame.

Real also tried to question Sandoval's knowledge of preserving the metal fragments he had recovered from the victims' bodies. Sandoval said he did have such knowledge.

No photos

Lead defense lawyer Philip Egbert Fortun asked Sandoval why there were no photographs of one of the victims with clothes on before the conduct of the autopsy.

Sandoval said the clothes had been turned over to the morgue, and he did not take photos after thought he was not sure, any for purposes of the autopsy.

Meanwhile, Dr. Nicanor Rodaje, another NBI forensic expert testified that the men of Maguindanao Gov. Esmael Mangudadatu suffered 46 gunshot wounds, all of which were fatal. Most were concentrated in the left part of Mangudadatu's chest.

Rodaje told the court that the multiple gunshot wounds damaged the victim's lungs, liver, part of the intestines and functioned Mangudadatu's heart.

Rodaje, who testified in the afternoon session of yesterday's trial hearing, conducted autopsies on 12 victims, including the governor's wife, Genalyn.

Another victim, lawyer Concepcion Rolando, was shot four times with two of the gunshot wounds, in the head and near the left shoulder, resulting not to be fatal.

The wound on the head damaged the brain and caused heavy bleeding, while the other fractured Rolando's second and third ribs as well as the scapula, Rodaje explained.

GMA steps down; Revilla is now Lakas-Kampi head

By Leila B. Salaverria

FORMER President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo stepped down as chair of the Lakas-Kampi party yesterday as it handed Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. as its new president.

Revilla, a movie actor who had starred in movies about the supernatural, is the party member with the highest elective post. Senator also topped the last Senate race.

Revilla's board takes over party matters that he was the group's analyst, according to former Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita. Revilla and his fellow former Sen. Ramon Revilla Sr. are movie actors known for their roles as anti-hero heroes.

"I told him, you were correct in saying that Lakas-Kampi party now has an analyst," Ermita recalled.

House minority leader Edcel Lagman was named secretary-general, replacing Aurelio who is now the party's chair emeritus. Arroyo was present at the gathering yesterday.

Co-chairs are Maguindanao Rep. Simeon Datumanong, Quezon Rep. Danilo Suarez, and Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr.

Iloilo Gov. Arthur Defensor was named executive vice president, while Aguinaldo del Norte Rep. Jose Aquino was designated treasurer-general.

Lakas-Kampi spokesperson Raul Lambino said the selection of Revilla as party chair was intended to give a new face and a youthful spin to Lakas-Kampi.

This would also bring the party closer to the grassroots, considering the mass appeal of Revilla, and the reputation of Lagman as someone who is close to the people, Lambino added.

Revilla said he would focus on strengthening the party and putting its order in every affiliate, the second chair there have been Democrats who joined Lakas-Kampi.

"What's important is that we all unite first," he told reporters.

He also said the party would work to help the president administration.

Lagman, for his part, said the Lakas-Kampi meeting would show that the party is "credible, workable and ready to take the challenges."

Lagman also called on his party mates who are in the majority to work with their colleagues in the House minority.

This would strengthen the majority and increase its talents. He noted that having a majority group is vital in a democracy.

"We think that we will be the spokesmen of the marginalized and disadvantaged. We are going to be the watchdog with respect to the performance of the Executive, more particularly in the utilization of resources as well as implementation of laws and policies," he said.

No guns found in Ampatuan property

JUSTICE Secretary Leila de Lima yesterday said that authorities had failed to find firearms in the places in Maguindanao province where an informant claimed there were buried after being used in the Nov. 23, 2009 massacre.

"The four tolled that supposedly would yield a cache of firearms turned out negative. So the informant had failed to pinpoint the exact location. But I am waiting for the report about that, why the search turned out negative when supposedly we have informants on that... But that happens, there are lots and lots of failed [searches]," De Lima said in a press conference.

She added: "We will try again and again because there are many areas to search, according to our informants."

Pursuant were issued to allow searches in search in the areas which De Lima did not divulge.

By Abdul-Aziz Edjom

25 EDSA PEOPLE POWER

February 22, 1986

SCENES FROM A REVOLUTION

THE PICTURE THAT WENT AROUND THE WORLD At about 6:45 p.m., Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and Lt. Gen. Fidel Ramos, vice chief of staff, hold a press conference at the former's office in Camp Aguinaldo to announce their breakaway from President Ferdinand Marcos. Only Radio Veritas broadcast the historic event nationwide. HQUANCIO/PDI

HE'S THE MAN Boni Aquino was the first to ask people over Radio Veritas to go to Edsa and protect the Marcos breakaway military. But Jaime Cardinal Sin (above) gets all the credit for the endless stream of people who troop to Edsa to form a human shield around Camp Crame. HQUANCIO/PDI

SLEEPING IT OFF In the dead of night, walk-in supporters, local reporters and other strangers drop every which way the first night of the Edsa revolt while the promises of the defense ministry. HQUANCIO/PDI

'First time in history a mob controlled by voice on the air'

(Editor's Note: The following is the text of an interview last week with Fr. James B. Reuter from his room at Our Lady of Peace Hospital in Novaliches City. The interview, conducted by Gloria Yu of dzRJ, was about the role of radio in the 1986 People Power Revolution.)

By Fr. James B. Reuter, S.J.

RADIO NOT ONLY made a difference, it was the whole thing. It was a first time in history that a mob was controlled by a voice on the air. Radio assembled the crowd, if you remember. Veritas calls that's the way it all began.

Cardinal Sin went on the air, in his own room. He was not in the studio, but what he did, he took the phone and said, "put me on the air" and he spoke. His voice was heard everywhere and the people reacted to it at once. When he said "come out to Edsa," boy, they came out.

Actually we had 50 radio stations all over the country, to which we came in, in the Asia, [Manila], it gave us tremendous power. Then radio was the power because when you spoke to everybody they believed in what you were saying. They believed you everywhere, especially when what you were saying was what the people really wanted to hear, what they were ready to do. So, when you say radio was the powerful thing, it was a powerful one because of radio but because of the heart of the people.

When they sent the tanks in the afternoon, the people started to change. Now, you should wonder why. This is the only country on the face of the earth where you could stop a tank only with your hands. It is the only country. Why? Because of the heart of the Filipino.

Unless those tanks were a driver inside, and if he wanted to, he could crush everybody else. But did he do it? Did he then? No, nothing, never. Because a Filipino cannot shoot a fellow Filipino dead, to crush a fellow Filipino with a tank. It's the heart of the Filipino. It's love thy neighbor.

Radio was so important that time that the enemy took our things. The enemy sent a couple of truckloads of soldiers to the transmitters in Sheldon, [Bulacan]. And they smashed it. They were trying to figure it. They smashed the transmitter, but we still had a standby transmitter, and we kept on going.

Only in the Philippines

People power will only work in the Philippines. I don't think it will work anywhere else. Why? Because of the heart of the Filipino. It was really the reason for success because those who were in power, they had guns, they could shoot and kill if they wanted to.

You cannot persuade a Filipino to shoot a fellow Filipino but the men standing on top of the tanks and the men in the tanks were Filipinos. So when they came, people stopped the tanks with their hands. How could that be? A person cannot stop a tank? They did it because of the heart of the Filipino. The Filipino I have met, they will not run into murder, ever. Oh boy, it's a peculiar gift, so deeply embedded in all the Filipinos that they don't think of it as a virtue.

It never crossed my mind that Marcos would win. No, no, no. Evil never wins. And Marcos was selfish. When a Filipino gives, a Filipino gives with love. Marcos didn't have that. The only one Marcos really loved was himself. That was it! And people know that. Therefore, he didn't have the character, because it was the heart of the people.

They were not impressed by the guns. They were not impressed by the tanks. They were not impressed by the position in government. What they wanted was what was right, what was true and they stood up to it. There is no other country that does that. They stood up with their hands, that was not an accident.

Radio is the thing

The radio is the thing, but the heart of the people matters a lot. If what radio says, really touches the heart of the people and what they want and what they stand up for as individuals, then radio is effective. But if the heart is not for it, it won't work.

Filipinos have a basic realization of the command of God, 'like little children. Love one another as I have loved you and so that's the way they live.

The Philippines is loved by God. The Philippines is blessed by God. The love of the Filipino for each other is unique. Only we who exist here are absorbed by it. The Filipino heart is open.

February 24, 1986

FLOWERS POWER VS HIGH AND MIGHTY A simple gesture multiplied many times over during the 4-day revolt put many officers and men in a serious dilemma. As a professional soldier, he has his orders from his superiors but if he obeys, he will be killing his innocent countrymen. In the end, the Filipino soldier chooses to protect the people. HQUANCIO/PDI

WINNING SMILES Enrile, Ramos and company's victory route has toxic. Earlier in the day, the 15th Strike Wing under Col. Antonio Santos made up of 8 choppers defected to the Enrile-Ramos camp. Note the here image of a woman—Our Lady of Fatima. HQUANCIO/PDI

A LEAP OF FAITH Though the rebel military led by Enrile and Ramos now has total control of Camp Crame and Aguinaldo, it's premature to proclaim victory as the 'Ramos' jump would suggest on the 3rd day of the revolt. It has more to do with faith and a lot more with power. HQUANCIO

February 26, 1986

THE MORNING AFTER Malacañang becomes once again what it should always be: The People's Palace. HQUANCIO/PDI

JPE: We never expected people at Edsa

From page A1

to the streets of power. "Let's fight to the city. I was the one who made this decision," he recalled.

He made it clear that there was no turning back to staging a coup.

'We imported Galib'

"We were there with our simple idea—to challenge the government ... without using firearms," Enrile said. "Don't kid yourself. We imported Galib and Van. What we did was no joke."

But they came the outpouring of support from Filipinos from all walks of life. Responding to the call from then Manila archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, they flooded Edsa to protest Enrile and company from Marcos' troops who had been ordered to arrest them.

"We never expected the buildup of a crowd at Edsa," Enrile said. "If Edsa did not happen, then ... either we were all killed or we would have killed a lot of people, too."

He added: "That was, in a nutshell, what it was for us because mind you, we did not go to Edsa unprepared."

'Ready to be killed'

The uprising, he said, was bound to happen because his group had decided to make it happen. "Whether we had one unit from anybody, we were ready to be killed and to face the adversary," he said. "We did and beat about it."

Enrile said the rebels' Edsa experience should teach people a crucial lesson. "Let us not toy with a thing like that unless we are prepared to die."

Another valuable lesson learned from his decision to lead a band of soldiers against Marcos 25 years ago, He will never do it again.

Enrile admitted that the bloodless people that would come in be known as the Edsa People Power Revolution "set back the country by about 15 years."

"Never again will I undertake that," he said. "It caused a lot of animosities, bumbukins, nations of pain."

Plemoirs released in May

The statement and more will be part of a tell-all book Enrile, now 87, plans to release by May this year. He described his work-in-progress as "a narration of history" primarily intended to set the record straight on key events that precipitated Edsa.

He finds his motivation now to make known not of certain personalities, much less himself, Enrile said.

"No, not even myself," he said. "I just narrated the discussions and the omissions and the exaggerations that were done to the books I have read about the Edsa Revolution."

People "can dispute what has taken I said about what I did on a given hour, given moment, given day, did not happen," Enrile said.

Part of the book will tackle what went on in the minds of Enrile and company in the crucial hours before they formally broke away from the Marcos regime and holed up in Camp Aguinaldo.

Namfrel volunteer: Triumph of ordinary citizen before Edsa

By Christian G. Monsod

IN THE PAST week, the Edsa People Power Revolution of 1986 has occupied the front pages and programs of media.

Their previous accounts of the principal players and of ordinary people have provided pieces of the mosaic of that historic event. Most of them are accurate in the work of their individual roles; while others are clearly an attempt at revisionism to enrichen personal interests.

Indeed, there were many genuine heroes at Edsa. But the picture would not be complete without the story of the Namfrel volunteers. There were 250,000 of them in 1984 and 500,000 in 1986, each one a born in his or her own right, driven by the dream of peaceful change that many said was hopeless.

Unheralded and befriended, the Namfrel volunteer was the 13 millionth of the ordinary citizens living before Edsa was a reality.

Small certificate, that's all

These volunteers were never really thanked except with a small certificate of appreciation that was the same for everyone, whether a lawyer, a businessman or a gold watcher.

Yet it was the essence of Namfrel that every contribution was as valuable as another. However, up to today, in many households all over the country, the simple certificate has occupied a place of honor.

A book, titled "Bantay ng Bayan—Stories of the Namfrel Crusade from 1984-1986," was published by Ken Kalingalan who wrote "All hundred is people and could learn to talk to half a million of them to get it done."

"I have never enjoyed doing anything as much as I enjoyed researching this book. As I went over the interview transcripts, I found myself laughing and to remembering the people I was lucky enough to meet, and their perils and triumphs. There were ordinary folk in ordinary life, who transcended themselves to uphold a nation. There is a story that goes beyond national boundaries; a story for all humanity. Maybe only a hardgiver, an American even, could write it," she said.

Ken died in the United States a few years ago, still in love with the Philippines.

9 perished

But for those interested in that part of our history, here are some of the experiences of individuals at the Edsa lines are a rich source of facts and inspiration, especially of the nine volunteers who "died in the night" protecting the ballot.

Since the map he he could stay their names will not print in the memories of Edsa. I will name them—Jaime Alaila, Constantin Barrueta, Hernán Cavalos, Francisco Jiménez, Jesús Magbanua, Samuel Morelli, Alexis Perez, Rodrigo Pérez and Dan Sarmiento.

Most of them were gunned down as crusade fund grew, which went to the reach and depth of the volunteerism that was the lifeblood of the movement. Priests, a lawyer and Namfrel volunteer in Mindanao, Cagsi, was the first martyr of the people marching on Edsa 7, 1986, three days who helped in a pockets to seize ballots from truckers that him dead as he died with the ballots, which he had wrapped in a Philippine flag.

A salute

Those who died and the 500,000 other volunteers deserve a lot of the credit to the restoration of our democracy and the role people power played in that restoration.

They sacrificed a task they did not have to assume. They had no other agenda but the country. These volunteers knew who they are. And they are content in their anonymity. But this is a good time as any to salute them and to tell them "Thank you."

(Editor's Note: The writer is a former Namfrel chair.)

How revolt was won: Turning points

From page A1

day, instead of attacking marched down at Camp Crame, and the pilots joined the Edsa Station chose. This was at about 6:00 a.m. of the 23th.

2. At about 10:00 a.m. of the same day, reformist troops captured MSE Channel 5, enhancing the psychological war over the broadcast media in favor of the reformists.

3. The joining of the 15th Fighter Wing jets put fighters with the Enrile-Ramos camp. This was offered through the efforts of Brigadier Generals Ramon Farolan and Augustus Feliso and Col. Romeo David of the Air Force. The pilots of the C-130s followed in joining the friendly forces, thereby consolidating air power for the Enrile-Ramos camp. He had then the friendly gunships, the fighter planes and the transport planes on our side.

4. There was a reported order from a top military commander of the opposing camp for the Air Force to attack Camp Crame to destroy the helicopters of the rebel forces. Upon learning of this plan, a preemptive strike was executed about mid-morning of the 24th: the gunships of Antolin Bellar Wing hit and immobilized the remaining Huevey helos at Villamor Air Base, thus preventing the air attack on Camp Crame.

5. Similar moves to close off the Crame camp came to no the 24th and the 25th. But the first wave of troops sent by Brig. Gen. Rodrigo Gonzaj of Regional Command (Recom) 12 on the 22nd via a commandeered flight was intercepted and captured at the Manila International Airport.

Villamor Air Base was then not yet secured for the rebel forces. However, in the succeeding days, when the airport and air power were already controlled by the rebel forces, reinforcing contingents from Recom 12 (2nd wave) and Recom 5 were successfully brought in to Manila by C-130.

A contingent also came from the Batangas Constabulary Command under Col. Benjamin Ramirez. On the guidance of Ramos, we deployed them at Sullivan. Recom 12 troops augmented division security Command and further secured the airport; Recom 5 troops (the contingent sent by Brig. Gen. Renato de Villa) secured Camp Aguinaldo; and the Batangas Constabulary troops provided area security as truckfolds during the proclamation and oath taking of the new President, Cory. (Joe E. Aquino, at Club Filipino on the 25th.

A soldier's dilemma

The Philippine Marine Corps was designated the primary ground basis of the Marcos camp to conduct operations against the rebel forces. The Philippine Navy was placed in reserve, while the Philippine Air force and the Philippine Navy were to provide tactical support.

On the morning of the 23rd, the Marine commandant was ordered by Maj. Gen. Josephus Ramas to move his contingent and launch an attack on Camp Crame.

This was not, however, done immediately as the Marine units originally guarding Malacañang had to be pulled out of Fort Bonifacio to augment the main body of troops to be committed for the mission. At about 2:30 p.m., the Marine contingent was ready for its task. The movement to camp Crame then began.

Armored column blocked

At the head of the motorized and armored column was the Marine Commandant himself, Brig. Gen. Artemio A. Tadiar in The contingent advanced through Edsa, but upon reaching the corner of Edsa and Gregoria Avenue, the column was blocked by thousands of people.

The crew of the armored vehicles tried to maneuver and to extend right to Ortigas Avenue, but again they were prevented by people and civilian vehicles from advancing. It was a standstill. The commandant of the Marines and his men could not in conscience allow the unarmed civilians to be hurt, so Tadiar halted any further movement.

Human barricade stops Marines

Two Marine battalions under Col. Eusebio Balbas were then ordered to infiltrate Camp Aguinaldo on foot, while the rest of the Marine column returned to Fort Bonifacio by 4:30 p.m. The Marine elements under Balbas were, however, stopped by a people's barricade at Libis. They could not advance. They cannot their objective without hurting civilians. When informed of this situation, Tadiar ordered Balbas and his contingent to return to Fort Bonifacio. That was at about 8 p.m. of the 23rd.

In the early morning of the following day, however, the Marine forces were able to move into Camp Aguinaldo by employing the 21st Provincial Tactical Marine Battalion under Balbas. The still sleepy people manning the barricades at Santolan Road were caught by surprise as the column was pounded and assisted by a CDC battalion that dispersed the crowd.

By 8:30 a.m., the unit of Balbas, armed with cannon and mortars, had established their positions at the vicinity of the IBE building in Camp Aguinaldo just opposite the rebel headquarters.

Order to open fire

At about 9:30 a.m., Tadiar received an order from the Army Operations Center to direct Balbas to open fire on Crame. The center said the order came from Malacañang. This was a grave order. Tadiar tried to call up Malacañang for confirmation, but he could not get through by phone or radio. So, he went to Malacañang to personally verify a decision. Fabian he confirmed the order.

He relayed the confirmation to Balbas, but the latter said that if he fired his cannons and mortars many people could get killed. That other than the rebel forces. Accordingly, as the Marines would not like the innocent civilians killed, they never fired their weapons. The Marine contingent was then ordered to return to Fort Bonifacio.

Appeal from Flores

During the crisis, Tadiar, like many other officers and men, was in a serious dilemma. As a professional soldier, he knew that his duty was to accomplish the mission; but if he did so, he would cause the deaths of many innocent people. He must have also heard over the radio the appeal of retired Brig. Gen. Manuel Flores, his former superintendent at the Philippine Military Academy, to remember his cadet days and to desist from attacking Camp Crame because he will be killing his former classmates, including his classmates and fellow alumni.

His uncle, Senator Alfredo Tadiar, made a similar appeal and urged him to consider the implications of his actions on his country and people.

At about 9:30 p.m. of the 24th, Tadiar was told that the attacking units, to be composed of Marines and Army elements, would move on foot and light duty through the ground if necessary. He called his staff officers and unit commanders to a conference and after deliberating for about half an hour, it was decided that the Marines would no longer participate in a subsequent military operation that would unnecessarily result in the injury or death of unarmed civilians.

He communicated his decision to his superior, Fabian Ver, while Balbas, who replied that he understood Tadiar's position.

At about 2:15 a.m. of the 25th, Tadiar delayed the movements of Col. Eugenio Reyes, the head of the Marine contingent assigned for the attack, by asking for another briefing on the whole scheme. At the conference, the staff officers brought up various problems.

An hour later, it was announced that the attack was aborted by the President. The dilemma resulting Tadiar and his officers was resolved and everyone sighed with great relief.

Soldiers protect people

Tadiar and his Marines were really professional; torn between loyalty to a person or particular group of persons, and loyalty to country and people, they chose the latter.

Many soldiers experienced such dilemmas during the uprising. The soldiers who were sent from Malacañang to attack and recapture Channel 4, had to turn back, for they could not stand the thought of burning the civilians blocking their route of advance.

The soldiers moving to to infiltrate the rear positions of Camp Crame were also turned back by unarmed civilians.

During the crisis, many telephone calls from concerned citizens were received at the GCC operations center about enemy troop movements all over Metro Manila. But it was not difficult to stop them. When ever people power was shifted, the further advance of the troops was effectively hastened.

When given conflicting choices, the soldiers chose to protect the people or avoid causing harm to them. It must be that deep in their hearts and minds was the realization that in the ultimate analysis, the military service means giving concrete meaning and purpose to their love for country and people.

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my music club.
my Watchpad.
-Rhian
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'No witness vs Dominguez brothers'

'My family is into farming'

By Nancy C. Carvajal

ALLEGED car theft gang leader Roger Dominguez yesterday admitted that he had been withdrawing money from his several bank accounts when he was arrested by operatives of the Quezon City police earlier this month.

"I heard on the news that one source would be frozen so I started withdrawing my accounts in various banks," he told reporters before yesterday's preliminary investigation at the Quezon City Regional Trial Court.

Dominguez is facing a charge of carjacking with homicide in connection with the killing of car dealer Emerson Evangelista. (See related story on this page.)

Reminded he was asked why he was carrying a large amount of money at the time he was arrested by the police at the corner of Danay and Timog Avenues two weeks ago in Quezon City.

As for where he got all his money, Dominguez said that his family was into farming and that they had a durables.

According to Dominguez, he had just come from the bank which was why he had

TFY DANLEY SAN

DOJ asked to dismiss charge vs car theft suspects

By Nikko Dizon and Julie M. Aurelio

BROTHERS Raymond and Roger Dominguez—the alleged leaders of a car theft syndicate—yesterday asked the Department of Justice (DOJ) to dismiss the complaint filed against them in connection with the death of car dealer Emerson Lozano.

"For lack of sufficient evidence, Roger and Raymond, after due notice and hearing, most respectfully pray for the outright dismissal of the instant complaint (for car theft with murder)," the brothers said in a joint resolution/affidavit submitted to Assistant State Prosecutor Eden Nikkay Valdes.

The complaint against them had been filed by the victim's family led by his father, lawyer Oliver Lozano.

Amid tight security, the brothers, who were also in handcuffs, attended the preliminary investigation presided over by Valdes at the DOJ to personally subscribe to their affidavit.

'Unbelievable, ridiculous'

In the document, they said that they found the statements of witness Alfred Mendiola "unbelievable, if not ridiculous."

"The hard truth," according to the brothers, was "that no one knows what actually happened."

Their lawyer, Joey Cruz, told reporters that there was no "corroborative witness" against his clients.

However, he clarified that this did not necessarily mean that Mendiola was not a credible witness. "It's only that no one supports his testimony," he said.

Mendiola's supposed corroborative witness, Ferdinand Pamisa, was still detained at the Bulacan provincial jail when Lozano and his companion, Ernesto Isonil, were killed on Jan. 13, Cruz said.

Valdes faces the statements of Alfred [Mendiola], corroborated by Pamisa, there is no solid evidence to implicate [us in] the death of Emerson Lozano]," the brothers said in their affidavit.

The Dominguezes have been tagged by Mendiola and Pamisa as the masterminds in the brutal murders of the younger Lozano, Isonil and another car dealer, Ismael Evangelista.

The three victims were riding in January after they went on separate test drives with prospective car buyers. Their charred bodies were later found in different areas in Central Luzon.

Two-hour gap

Oliver Lozano and his family also appeared before Valdes yesterday but two hours before the arrival of the Dominguez brothers.

The lawyer said he had asked the prosecutor to allow them to be in the proceedings earlier because he wanted to avoid a "confrontation" with brothers.

"But that we're not ready to see them. We [just] don't want any untoward incident to hap-

NICA MATHEUS ICA

Suspected gunman in interpreter's slay killed in shoot-out with guards

A POLICEMAN shows the gun used in the killing of a Chinese-Filipino translator in Pasay City on Wednesday. ARNOLD ALMACEN

Cops nab 3 in suspected lair for hired assassins

By Kristine Felicia Marguesa

MALABON police raided a dorm yesterday a suspected hit-of-gun-for-hire terrorism-of-legally-operating in the northern part of Metro Manila.

Orphan Gabagat," conducted by the Malabon City police and the Northern Police District, netted three suspects, said police chief, Senior Supt. Gomer Bayron.

Jasmine Bongalan alias Bonbon, Roger Ibanez alias Boyong and a man only known as Jake were arrested following intelligence reports that an alleged group of hired killers had been seen mingling with illegal workers in Barangay Tinajeros.

Twelve other suspects managed to escape when they were tipped off.

Contract price

"The contract price ranges from P5,000 upwards, depending on the nature of the job and the profile of the target involved. A high-profile target requires a higher fee," Bayron said.

He added that the fee collected by the group are pooled for the purchase of firearms and ammunition, and for operating expenses.

The members of the group serve as runners or walk-in guns, dispatching on order to their contractees and negotiate the shots, Bayron said.

Based on police profiles, most of the suspects come from the Visayas and Mindanao regions and have pending cases of murder and robbery-holdup.

Singled out

Barangay Tinajeros had been singled out as the group's late because of its strategic location, said Bayron.

Apart from maps and sketches, police found a list of people's names believed to be targets of the group during the raid.

By Tina G. Santos

A MAN who shot dead a Chinese-Filipino translator in a Zambales-based mining company outside a coffee shop in Pasay City Wednesday night was in turn killed in a shoot-out with responding security guards.

Police Chief Supt. Raymund Ligadan, chief of the investigation unit of the Pasay City Police, said Conrado Valenzuela, 51, of Iba, Zambales, in Pasay City was killed after he engaged the guards in a shoot-out.

The incident happened around 10:45 p.m. in front of Starbucks coffee shop at Blue Wave Bldg. Mall along Macapagal Avenue in Pasay City.

Case investigator PO2 Melvin Garcia said Valenzuela was trying to escape after he shot Pan Chen Chiang, 54, a translator and a resident of San Marcelino, Zambales province.

Pan Chen was reportedly having a meeting with five fellow Chinese nationals at the coffee shop when Valenzuela, armed with a handgun, shot him twice in the head, killing him instantly.

Valenzuela then boarded a red sport utility vehicle (SUV) driven by Jonathan Clemen to make off. But the commotion attracted the attention of roving security guards who immediately responded and chased the fleeing suspect.

As the cab stopped at a traffic light, Valenzuela alighted from the vehicle and, at gunpoint, commandeered a Nissan pick-up driven by Menandro Filario.

Before Valenzuela could escape, patrolling security guards blocked his path, prompting the suspect to open fire, shot at the guards, Eric Gollit, retaliated, forcing the suspect to die.

Policemen who arrived in the area brought the wounded Valenzuela to the Pasay City General Hospital where he succumbed while being treated.

Seized from him were a handgun and several pieces of live ammunition, police said.

Crime scene investigators also recovered spent shells from a .45 pistol and a .380 revolver.

Ligadan said they have yet to determine the motive behind the attack on Pan Chen.

"By all indications, Valenzuela appeared to be a gun for-hire, so there must be a mastermind. Since the gunman was also killed in the incident, we're conducting a background check on him and the victim to establish the motive for the killing," the police official said.

He also said that they were trying to verify information that the victim used to be detained at the Manila City Jail.

Homicide charges will also be filed against Collee as a matter of procedure.

Police investigators showed that the security guard's act was justified, that he did it in the line of duty. But as a matter of procedure, we will file a case against him and let the prosecutor decide whether or not there is a probable cause against him," Ligadan said.

Elderly woman puts one over robber

By Nancy C. Carvajal and Jeannette I. Andrade

MANILA streamers, different outcomes.

A 68-year-old former teacher proved to be a match for a taxi driver who tried to steal her valuables on Wednesday evening in Quezon City.

The police said Edna Castantua was able to recover all her valuables because she kept her wits about her and memorized the taxi number and plate number of the cab she had gotten in.

Castantua, a Norwegian national who arrived in the country on Wednesday morning ended up losing everything he had when the taxi he had flagged down took off while he was slipping from it.

PO2 George Garcia of the Quezon City Police District said the driver who cried to rob Castantua, 33-year-old Christopher de Guzman, was later arrested by policemen.

According to the police officer, Castantua hailed the flagged-down a 13 FXD cab in Cubao, Quezon City, and asked the driver to bring her to Barangay Payatas. When the cab reached Mayaman Street, the driver stopped the vehicle and alighted from it.

Engine trouble

He then told his passenger that his cab had developed engine trouble. But instead of fixing it, the driver took out a knife, opened the rear passenger door and declared a holdup.

In her report to the police, the victim said the driver took her jewelry, cell phone and cash.

He then dropped her somewhere.

"The driver probably thought the old lady would just go home scared but the tracker memorized the plate number and took the details of the car and called up the police," Garcia said.

He added that robbery charges had been filed against the taxi driver.

In Manila, Jabas Kayumba, a tourist from Norway, reported not his luggage and P1,000 to cash in a holdup.

Barcelona said the two suspects in the Pandacaqui raid were the owners, eighth and ninth Chinese nationals to be arrested since the implementation of the Bureau's campaign dubbed "Case Operation Plan to Meltdown."

Police are now preparing criminal cases against the three in the Bureau's Prosecutor's Office for violations indicated in Section 5 (sale, trading, dispensation, delivery), Section 11 (possession) and Section 26 (attempt or conspiracy) of Republic Act No. 9165 (Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002).

On Feb. 1, Chinese nationals Qingguo Xiao, 42, and Dave Go, 32, were arrested by Bureau agents of the Special Operations Task Group operatives during a buy-bust operation in Caloocan City.

The raid yielded 60 kilograms of shabu with an estimated street value of P240 million.

Police also seized P5,000 million worth of liquid shabu from a townhouse leased by Xiao and used as a drug laboratory in Malabon City recently. ⊡

4 suspected drug dealers fall in San Juan, Parañaque raids

By Alexis Pupa and Tina Santos

ANTIDRUGOPS operatives launched two separate buy-bust operations in Metro Manila Wednesday, resulting in the arrest of four suspected drug dealers.

The first in fell was Earl William Tan of North Greenhills, San Juan City. He was nabbed at the parking lot of the Ayala Guardia compound by operatives of the Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force at around 5:10 p.m.

Confiscated from the suspect were five sachets of shabu weighing 300 grams, one unit of suspected cocaine, four sachets of a substance suspected of kobe (cutting) a block, 48 cal. 9mm pistol with ammunition and the suspect's vehicle.

An hour later, three Chinese nationals identified as Long Zong alias Benny Lang, Tong Chai and Leung Cheung, were arrested in another buy-bust operation at the Mercury Drug Store parking lot located at the corner of Delta Istleted Avenue and Ruma Street in Barangay San Bravo, Parañaque City, said National Capital Region Police Office Director Nicanor Bartolome.

Seized from the suspects were an estimated 0.5 kilos of a substance authorities suspect is shabu, with an estimated street value of P42 million.

The operation was conducted by operatives of the Southern Police District and the Parañaque police.

Also recovered were a silver Toyota Camry (SDZ 452) registered to a certain Norma Cachero and a silver Toyota Fortuner (XLL 661) registered to one Jill Chua.

Bartolome said the three suspects in the Parañaque raid were the owners, eighth and ninth Chinese nationals to be arrested since the implementation of the Bureau's campaign dubbed "Case Operation Plan to Meltdown."

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'No witness vs Dominguez brothers'

From page A 23

pen," he told reporters.

In their seven-page complaint, the lawyers said that "there [was no doubt] that Emerson was murdered in the hands of the respondents in conspiracy with one another. They have no allegation or evidence to prove that others besides killed Emerson."

The elder Lozano said that he believed the evidence against the brothers was "strong" and that his family's affidavit was "sufficient and clear" to lead to the "right information" being filed against the brothers in court.

Velitas said the new preliminary investigation would be held on March 10.

Paula, 3 others charged

Meanwhile, the police have charged Senior Insp. Kathrina Paula and three other persons with the murder of Emerson.

In a resolution dated February 1 and released Wednesday, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) of the Philippine National Police filed car theft with homicide charges at the Quezon City Prosecutor's against Paula (Angeline Ignacio at real life), Julliano Allyson Cruzamora, Rolando Tallon and another man identified only as Jun.

The CIDG's Criminal Investigation and Detection Division through Supt. Florian Bulwar filed the complaint in behalf of Evangelista's father, Arsenio and his mother, Mary Grace.

Tallon, also known as Bully and Eduardo Fernandez, was identified as the one who shot and killed the victim after he was abducted during a test drive on Jan. 23 in Quezon City.

However, the arrest of the two, witnessed by Francis and Cruzamora is the murder case was not filed.

Based on the testimony of Rhodelia, Paula was Raymund Dominguez's girlfriend. Cruzamora, the other hand, was in a relationship with Roger Dominguez. (See related story on page A15.)

Records showed that the title subsidy (backseller seized from Roger during his arrest earlier this month was registered to Constructor's name.

Mendiola had claimed that Cruzamora was in the vicinity of the group's safehouse when he, Tallon, Jeril and Raymund Dominguez arrived with Evangelista whom they had just abducted following a test drive.

Last year, the PNP Highway Patrol Group raided a condominium unit allegedly being used by Paula and recovered eight suspected stolen cars, including one which belonged to a former undersecretary.

'My family is into farming'

From page A 23

P270,000 in cash with him.

Aside from the cash, he said his also had lost cellphones and a laptop computer in his car.

Chief Insp. Rodolfo Mascalo, deputy chief of the organized Quezon City Police District's extortion desk unit, confirmed that they recovered money, several cell phones and a computer from investigators at the time of his arrest.

"All things recovered from the vehicle are intact and accounted for," he said in a phone interview.

"Please tell all be presented to the media in due time," he added.

Dominguez, when asked why he needed four cell phones, replied, "Eto, si Jil (It's the full)."

He also assured that he had no involvement in the killing of Evangelista as he added that the "evidences would prove it."

He was initially arrested for driving on the street against the traffic flow. Abet policemen, however, pounced on him when he presented a driver's license under his real name.

Records show Dominguez's arrest, the police recovered from gallery's Toyota Land Cruiser—the vehicle the victim was driving when he disappeared—at the Muntinlupa in Muntinlupa City.

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METROBRIEFS

Sining Kanulig marks Edsa I

SIRMIG Kanulig Art Gallery and Restaurant in the Ortas Boulevard Shangri-la is holding an exhibition as its featured artists "Edsa ... Ako Ngayon" opened to the public the anniversary of the non-violent people power revolution that toppled the country's dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Among the artists featured in the exhibit are Jose Tence Ruiz, Jose Tence Ruiz, Pablo Martin Santos, Fernando Cena, Odilon Cena, Jorge Pineda

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Ganzon

Iran's influence grows amid Arab unrest

MANAMA, Bahrain—The popular revolts shaking the Arab world have begun to shift the balance of power in the region, bolstering Iran's position while weakening and unnerving its rival, Saudi Arabia, regional experts said.

While it is far too soon to write the final chapter on the upheavals' impact, Iran has already benefited from the unrest or undermining of Arab leaders who were its strong adversaries and has begun to project its growing influence, the analysts said. This week Iran sent two warships through the Suez Canal for the first time since its revolution in 1979, and Egypt's new military leaders allowed them to pass.

Saudi Arabia, a United States ally and a Sunni nation that joins with Shiite Iran for regional influence, has been shaken. King Abdullah on Wednesday signaled his concern by announcing a $130 billion increase in welfare spending to help young people marry, buy homes and open businesses, a gesture seen as trying to head off the kind of unrest that fueled protests around the region.

Abdullah then met with the king of Bahrain, Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa, to discuss ways to contain the political uprising by the Shiite majority there. The Sunni leaders in Saudi Arabia and Bahrain accuse their Shiite populations of loyalty to Iran, a charge repeated by Shiites who say it is intended to stoke sectarian tensions and justify oppression to democracy.

The uprisings are driven by domestic concerns. But they have already shifted the region's political paradigm in which a trio of states aligned with the West supported engaging Israel and containing Iran's enemies, including Hamas and Hezbollah, experts said. The pro-engagement bloc of Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia is now in tatters. Hosni Mubarak of Egypt has been forced to resign, King Abdullah of Jordan is struggling to control discontent in his kingdom and Saudi Arabia has been left alone to face a rising challenge to its regional role.

"I think the Israelis are worried than they've ever cited—Iraq, Syria, Lebanon," Yemen is unstable; Bahrain is very unsettled," said Allison Mudge, an expert on international affairs with the Rand Corp. "They worry that the region is ripe for Iranian exploitation. Iran has shown that it is very capable of taking advantage of regional instability."

"Iran is the big winner here," said a regional adviser to the US government.

Iran's circumstances could change, experts cautioned, if it overplayed its hand or if popular Arab movements came to resent Iranian interference in the region. And it is by no means assured that pro-Iranian groups would dominate politics in Egypt, Tunisia or elsewhere.

For now, Iran and Syria are emboldened. Qatar and Oman are tilting toward Iran, and Egypt, Tunisia, Bahrain and Yemen are in play.

"If these pro-American/Arab political orders currently being challenged by significant present movements become at all more representative of their populations, they will be sure to become less enthusiastic about strategic cooperation with the US," Flynt Leverett and Hillary Mann Leverett, former National Security Council staff members, wrote in a recent email.

They added that as the moment, Iran's leaders see "their regional balance is shifting, in potentially decisive ways, against their American adversaries and in favor of the Islamic Republic."

Iran's standing is stronger in spite of its challenges at home, which include widespread high unemployment and a divisive political opposition.

The US may also face challenges in pressing its case against Iran's nuclear programs, some experts asserted.

"Recent events have also taken the focus away from Iran's nuclear program and may make regional and international consensus on sanctions even harder to achieve," Nader said.

Iran's confidence in its future is based on a gradual realignment that began with the aftermath of 9-11. By ousting the Taliban in Afghanistan, and then Saddam Hussein in Iraq, the US removed two of Iran's regional enemies who marked for a missile in subtlety. Today, Iran is a major player in both nations, an unintended consequence.

Iran demonstrated its established attitude earlier this year in Lebanon where its ally, Hezbollah, forced the collapse of the pro-Western government of Saad Hariri. Hariri was replaced with a prime minister backed by Hezbollah, a bold move that analysts say was undertaken with Syria's support.

—New York Times News Service

Calls for 'Jasmine Revolution' in China persist

BEIJING—A small but stubborn protest movement is continuing calls for democratic reforms despite a campaign of arrests and censorship that underscores China's concern over unrest and revolts in another Asian countries in the Middle East and North Africa.

According to the Hong Kong-based Information Center for Human Rights and Democracy, three people were detained for "inciting subversion of state power" after they separated calls for protests last weekend. The detentions could not be confirmed independently, but the three reportedly are sources of dissidents and rights lawyers. Some such known lawyers who usually represent cases were placed under house arrest and some were beaten badly, according to human rights activists.

Activists, possibly from outside China, have called on citizens in China to express their displeasure at the country's lack of reforms and officials' corruption by silently meeting in front of department stores or other public areas for a "Jasmine Revolution," a name borrowed from the Tunisian revolt that set off the Middle East unrest.

Organizers have now called for the protests to continue each Sunday, and gave a list of spots to a dozen major cities where people could "go for a stroll" this coming Sunday at 2 p.m.

But those calls are made via Twitter and other services widely blocked in China, they circulate only in those who bypass its server censors. Her Chinese authorities have been responding with their customary zeal. On Sunday, a presence in Beijing was overwhelmed by police officers.

And the world "Jasmine" has been blocked on popular social networking sites and chat rooms.

The authorities might have a hard time eradicating the word. Jasmine is also the name of a popular Chinese folk song.

It was supposedly the favorite of Qing's previous leaders, Jiang Zemin, who ordered it to be played at the 1997 transfer of Hong Kong, the former British colony, to China. In addition, videos exist of China's current leader, Hu Jintao singing the song while on a trip in Africa. —New York Times News Service

CHINESE migrant workers on lunch break at a construction site in Hefei in east China. AP

Airlines raising fares as oil prices climb

AIRLINE PASSENGERS should prepare themselves for sticker shock this year.

As the carriers have tried to keep up with rapidly rising oil prices, they have already increased their fares four times since the start of the year, compared with only three increases for all of 2010. The airlines have also relied more on their fees, imposed summer peak-time surcharges and added hefty fuel surcharges on international flights.

Even traditional low-cost carriers that have long eschewed their rivals are joining in. Southwest Airlines, for example, which usually resists industry-wide fare increases, participated in several rounds, including one this week.

While the rising ticket prices have satisfied the steady increase in fuel costs in recent months, the historical in the Middle East has sent oil prices sharply higher. That surge now threatens to derail the airline industry's fragile recovery and may lead to even more surcharges, industry's prices. Brief increases for about 40 percent of the industry's costs, up from about 20 percent just four years.

The airlines have few options to deal with their rising costs. Most carriers were already hedging some of their fuel purchases to protect against sudden price increases. They can also look for ways to cut ethanol plans, but that requires billions of dollars in investments and takes years.

—New York Times News Service

In Ivory Coast, 'It's not Kalashnikovs anymore, it's rocket launchers'

DAKAR, Senegal—The efforts by the Ivory Coast strongman Laurent Gbagbo to remain in office after losing an election appeared to be intensifying this week, with assaults by his troops on a neighborhood of Abidjan, the country's commercial capital, and clashes among soldiers and civilians in several other cities.

On Wednesday, the Abobo neighborhood, which supports Gbagbo's rival, some soldier reserved a attack by Gbagbo forces, according to residents reached by telephone and news agency reports. One resident said that Gbagbo's tanks had arrived in neighborhoods and that the area was under continued assault by rocket launchers.

"It's not the Kalashnikovs anymore," said the resident, Ahmed Fofana, referring to the assault rifles favored by Gbagbo's forces. "It's rocket launchers. We can't go out anymore; it's too dangerous." The resident said civilians had died and several houses had been destroyed.

The violence reflected a deteriorating situation, as well as a possible prelude to a civil war that had been feared since the November presidential election, when Gbagbo's rival, Alassane Ouattara, was recognized as the winner by the international community.

The initial tough line taken by African nations against Gbagbo's efforts to hold on to power despite losing has weakened, with a number of influential nations, including South Africa and Angola, edging away from the regional position that he must go. Ivory Coast was seen as a test case in the continent's commitment to nurturing democracy.

Meanwhile, Ivory Coast's economy is collapsing under the weight of international sanctions imposed on Gbagbo. Major banks in Abidjan, a normally bustling seaport of around four million people, have closed. In the past two weeks, and the incumbent's diplomatic isolation appeared to be almost total. There was rumored talk on Wednesday by a former ambassador in the crisis, Pascal Affi N'Guessan, that Gbagbo's violence came after several days of clashes in Abobo and two other neighborhoods. On Tuesday, several of Gbagbo's forces were killed in an ambush in Abobo, according to various reports. The number was difficult to verify; a Gbagbo spokesman, Alain Toussaint, said by phone that three soldiers died in the attack and that seven "terrorists" were "neutralized," while local newspapers said seven agents of Gbagbo's armed forces were killed.

On Monday, 11 civilians in the Abidjan neighborhoods were killed by forces loyal to Gbagbo, according to a statement by Ouattara.

The clashes came as the latest of numerous mediation efforts by African leaders ended. The presidents of Chad, Mauritania, South Africa and Tanzania were leaving Abidjan in the wound of gunfire after meeting with Gbagbo and Ouattara on Monday and Tuesday. A fifth leader, a mediator by the African Union, President Blaise Compaore of Burkina Faso, was blocked from going to Abidjan following hostile demonstrations against him by the Young Patriots, a violent youth militia loyal to Gbagbo. —New York Times News Service

Indonesia Islamic cleric denies terror charges

JAKARTA, Indonesia—Indonesia's best-known radical Islamic cleric denied charges on Thursday that he helped set up a new terrorist cell and training camp that reportedly was preparing a series of high-profile assassinations and attacks on Western hotels and embassies.

Abu Bakar Bashir told judges at the South Jakarta District Court that he was a victim of a United States conspiracy and that all charges against him were fabricated.

The 72-year-old imam, who has twice escaped conviction on lateral convictions, faces a maximum penalty of death if he is found guilty.

Hundreds of supporters met the ex-founder of the al-Qaida-linked network Jemaah Islamiyah, which is blamed for a string of deadly suicide bombings in Indonesia, at the tightly guarded court, some chanting "God is Great!" as he pulled up to a police van, smiling and waving.

When told they would not be allowed to enter the courtroom to hear him respond to the charges, Bashir's supporters rushed the gates but were quickly forced back by heavily armed police.

Prosecutors say the new terrorist cell is linked to a militant training camp that was discovered in Aceh province last year and that Bashir helped plan. —AP

BASHIR behind bars on Feb. 24. AP

US gov't says marriage law 'unconstitutional'

WASHINGTON—In a major policy reversal, the Obama administration said on Wednesday it will no longer defend the constitutionality of a United States law banning recognition of same-sex marriage.

Attorney General Eric Holder said President Barack Obama and his national security administration cannot defend the federal law that defines marriage as only between a man and a woman. He noted that the congressional debate during passage of the Defense of Marriage Act "contains numerous expressions reflecting moral disapproval of gays and lesbians and their intimate conduct," and that, therefore, precisely the kind of demographic-based classifications the US Constitution is designed to guard against.

The justice department had defended the act in court until now.

The move drew praise from some Democrats in Congress but a sharp response from Republican John Boehner, the leader of the House of Representatives.

"Americans want Washington to focus on creating jobs and cutting spending. The president will have to explain why it's appropriate to open a controversial issue," said Boehner's spokesperson Michael Steel.

Gay groups, which had long pressured the administration to take a step like this, were pleased. —AP

EastWest Bank and LauxGroup of Companies Launch LauxAutoGroup Visa Credit Card

A Winning Collaboration that Brings the Highest Fuel Rebate Card in the Market Today

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Tatak: EDSA 25 Program of Activities

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Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Chiwa

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Tropang Texters test Gilas 5 today

SMART Gilas ignifer Jiro Cain receives a pass off South Korean counterpart Chang Byung-deuk in a recent Asian continental match.

By Jane Navarro

NO LESS than Talk 'N Text gets to show what future Gilas Pilipinas is made of when they collide today at the resumption of the PBA Commissioner's Cup at the Araneta Center in Antipolo.

Although the national five has acquitted it self well in recent hoopsy matches with four PBA teams, the Tropang Texters will be a different lot, having been assured Philippine Cup champion early this month.

The first game of the two teams expected to figure prominently in the title race is set at 5 p.m.

Jan Miguel Beer and Ato21 collide in the second match at 7:30 p.m.

After beating the Boosters in the title playoffs three weeks ago, the Tropang Texters plunged into practice only 10 days before today's encounter. TROPANG A18

Solving HAIRLOSS: Make it a priority.

Don't just sit there and wait for that day when people will start referring to you as the bald guy. "When I noticed my thinning crown area, my first step was to solve it, not to ignore it. Losing one's hair is like losing one's self-confidence. Aminado ka rin. I told myself, if I can spend money for travel, sports, etc., I should be able to invest in getting my hair back, too. I went straight to Svenson. And I got hair results. My hair became fuller, stronger. Iniyakap ko na rin yun with them to look more aware and have open talaga. My wife said, 'Galing! Wala na 'yung bald spot mo!' No more fashion scarves. Now, I can focus on other things."

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Chiz, Pia, MVP head PSA Awards Night guest list

By Cedrik F Tupas

THEIR STATURE hasn't kept sports away from their hearts.

Thus, it's only fitting that Sen. Chiz Escudero, Sen. Pia Cayetano and former Manny V Pangilinan headline the guest list in the Philippine Sportswriters Association Sports Gala Awards Night on March 3 at the Manila Hotel.

Advocates of sports in the Senate, Escudero and Cayetano will be joined by the country's top sports officials and personalities, including Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr., Philippine Sports Commission chair Richie Garcia and International Olympic Committee (IOC) representative to the Philippines Frank Elizalde.

Escudero was guest speaker in last year's awards gala, where he reiterated his vow to help sports development in the country.

Pangilinan, a staunch supporter of Philippine sports with his key involvement in several sports association and most recently his establishment of the MVP Sports Foundation which will help local football, served as guest of honor during the PSA awards in 2009.

Boxing superstar Manny Pacquiao is guest of honor and speaker in this year's event, also sponsored by the PBL, Smart Gilas, Harbour Centre, ICTSI, Accel, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., Philippine Basketball Association and Milo/General Resources.

On top of the honor roll as athlete of the Year for 2010 are billiards icon Francisco "Django" Bustamante and the three-gold medalist in the Asian Games—boxer Rey Saludar, bowler Biboy Rivero and rising star artist Dennis Orcollo.

PSA AWARDEES

Athlete of the Year: Francisco "Django" Bustamante, billiards; Coach of the Year: Alfredo "Boy" Panlilio, chess; Achievement Award: Philippine men's football team; Executive of the Year: Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr., Philippine Olympic Committee; Lifetime Achievement Award: Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association; Athlete with a Disability Award: Josephine Medina; Athletes' Athlete Award: Rey Saludar, boxing; Sportsman of the Year: Manny Pacquiao; Sportswoman of the Year: Dennis Orcollo; Pro Athlete of the Year: Dennis Orcollo; Rookie of the Year: Jason Gomez, billiards; Comeback Player of the Year: Miguel Tabuena, golf; Most Promising Athlete: Miguel Tabuena, golf; Most Promising Athlete with a Disability: Josephine Medina; Coach of the Year: Jerry Lamigo, Ateneo basketball; Executive of the Year: Alfredo Lamigo, Ateneo basketball; Executive of the Year: Jose Emilio Gamboa, Philippine Basketball Association

Anthony debuts with 27 as Knicks down Bucks

NEW YORK—Carmelo Anthony had 27 points and 10 rebounds, hitting a pair of vital baskets in front of a crowd that cheered his every move as New York beat the Milwaukee Bucks, 114-108, on Wednesday in his Knicks debut.

Anthony made only 10 of 25 shots but was at his best in the closing minutes, helping New York hold on after fellow superstar Amare Stoudemire fouled out. He matched the third-highest scoring game in a Knicks debut since 1964, just two points shy of Bernard King's 29 on Dec. 10, 2003.

Chauncey Billups, who came with Anthony in from Denver in Tuesday's blockbuster trade, finished with 21 points and eight assists as the Knicks won their third straight. Toney Douglas scored 23 points and Stoudemire had 16.

At Dallas, Josh Howard also scored 27 points as Dallas crushed past Utah, 118-98, a few hours after the team traded star leading scorer Deron Williams to New Jersey.

Raja Bezjakovic hit four three-pointers and scored 16 points, and Shawn Marion contributed 16 points for the Mavericks, who had seven double-figure scorers in their fourth straight victory. Dallas has won 16 of its last 17 overall.

At Jefferson scored 30 points, Paul Millsap had 18 and Andrei Kirilenko 17 for the Jazz, who have lost five straight.

At San Antonio, Tony Parker scored the lead of his 29 points with a 19-footer with 26.1 seconds left, and Gary Neal added 19 points to lead San Antonio to a 109-103 victory over the Oklahoma City Thunder.

The Spurs improved to 47-10, ensuring strikes three wins of their total from last season.

Kevin Durant led the Thunder with 30 points, and Russell Westbrook had 25.

At Orlando, Florida, Jermaine Taylor had 21 points and Beno Udrih added 19 as Sacramento snapped a five-game losing skid.

NEW York Knicks' Carmelo Anthony shoots over Milwaukee Bucks' Andrew Bogut.

Bjorn ousts Woods in Match Play opener

MARANA, ARIZONA—The slow road back for Tiger Woods took another detour Wednesday when he followed a crucial birdie with a shocking shot into the desert and lost to Thomas Bjorn in the first round of the Match Play Championship.

It was only the second time that Woods, the No. 1 seed, had been ousted in the first round.

Moments after he made an 8-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole to extend the match, he hit a 3-wood so far to the right that it landed in a desert bush. It took two shots just to get it back onto the grass. After a bogus 6, Woods conceded to Bjorn.

"I blew it," Woods said.

Twice he had simple chips on the back nine and failed to convert them into birdies, losing his lead on the 13th and falling behind on the 15th. He missed a 4-foot par putt on the 17th that he figured he should make "every time."

The other top seeds didn't have that much trouble.

Top-ranked Lee Westwood never trailed in his 3-and-2 win

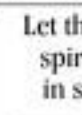
TIGER Woods (left) congratulates Thomas Bjorn after their match.

over Henrik Stenson, while PGA champion Martin Kaymer had the shortest match of the opening round, a 7-and-6 win over Hunter Mahan.

Fifth of fifteen stories. AP

Let the Edsa spirit live in sports

ONE GAME AT A TIME



SOL SANTOSIDAD

TOM PEREL, Edsa People Power marks its 25th year.

Why? Last yesterday that we were glued to the radio for news, rushed to cities, marveled at disbanding, and relished the freedom suppressed for so long? 25 years just seemed to be so small, just like you.

My, false, expectations were bringing headaches to the home cabinet (Channel 4, the government network controlled by the People Power forces. We with Gigi and Limpot for a few hours as we left that, being entertainment, that was the places we for. The People's Television stewards were being born in the right to free speech and being entertained.

Interestingly, in spite of these hopeful days in 1986, we are still struggling today with the limits of life that were with the freedom in empowerment, needs to be done to address our concerns. This includes constantly evaluating what needs to be done and still can done to uplift in the country.

To date, no Olympic gold medal has remained elusive. The Asian Games have produced a few minor gold medals while pantheons in the USA Games has been a rather counter-intuitive and played host. There have been a number who have made or served like Manuel and Simon Donato Jr., our nationwide pioneer, or more and Filipino billiards players who are revered and heard throughout the world.

It may be tempting to run down the list of problems that Philippine sports has encountered over the last 25 years but that can be boring while celebrating the Edsa celebration.

Maybe we can take a cue from having a collection of readings entitled "The Filipino Of Character the Philippines" edited by Edna Zarayda and Isabel Gilbert Quimpo in their introduction, the editors cite David G. Timberman, author of "A Changeless Land: Continuity and Change in Philippine Politics (1991), "who wrote that the Philippines has hardly changed and have the same socio-political problems during normal late and after Edsa.

Can the same be said of Philippine sports?

We can for from perfect as we continue to seek Olympic gold, genuine consistency in our Asian Games performance and regular top-three finishes in the Old games. There is a lot of work to be done and so much more hands that need to be raised to make our athletes truly competitive against the best of the world. Many more facilities and programs for all ages need to be implemented to make sports an integral part of Philippine life.

It is no longer just the work and responsibility alone of those at the helm of sports or public charges. Many have already pitched in. If we can invoke the spirit of Edsa and start together to make the Philippines a sporting nation, we can do it. Let us show also ways to have sports in life, then maybe our land isn't so dysfunctional after all.

Together, we can do something to change the course of the game just like we did 25 years ago in Edsa.

PAL Interclub: Del Monte paces Canlubang by one

DEL Monte's Benny Abalos watches his missed putt on the 18th hole at yesterday's second round.

By Manny R. Castillo

CALAMBA DR. URIO—Title favorite Del Monte, with its foremost ace still on the throne for the second round, bucked a two-stroke penalty on its last nine to wrest the lead in the 44th Philippine Airlines Interclub yesterday.

Benny Abalos, a 53-year-old daddy's son, cracked par again with a 1-under 71 worth 37 points to lead the Makiling-based squad in a second round 141 at the Pueblo de Oro here for a 279 total and a one-point lead over defending champion Canlubang.

Leonardo Lobrasco chipped in with a 36, Nino Lucero assembled a 38, and Noel Langamin settled for a 39 after being punished two strokes for repairing his ball mark outside the par 3 14th green.

"We showed today that we can play at Manila Golf Club," Del Monte skipper Serging Feliz, whose 27 did not count, said. "We like our chances."

Feliz, mainstay of Del Monte's 2001 champion team, talked with confidence with reigning Philippine amateur champ Clyde Mondilla coming out for the final two rounds starting with Friday's play at Del Monte in Manila's Forbes, Bulacan.

Atom Carlos and Joey Marvin also returned 37s, Paul Eduarte, who cast anchor for the second consecutive day, fired a 38, and Orbos chipped in with 39 for "six pars" netting Canlubang's number. Del Monte's 141 for a 273 output over two rounds.

Para-round leader Cebu Country Club drew 36 points from Rocky Baguio-Guerra, a 39 from Jose Sayo and 33 from Mark Sarmiento and Jun Abera for 133, that dropped the squad to third, five off Del Monte.

"We have players who can match Clyde (Mondilla) in the final two days," said complaining Canlubang skipper Luigi Vela. "I think it's just a matter of which players can find in the final two days."

Meanwhile, Camp Evangelista kept the Sportsmen's Division lead after shooting 103 at Pueblo de Oro for a 213 total. Jun Magbanta paced the squad with 29 with Edgar Cielo, Luis Amigo and Danny Junio firing 36, 35 and 37, respectively.

PGA BC, led by Oswaldo Pragmatico's 24 points, posted 50-179 and now grows lead in the Non-Handicap Division over CIP Tee Jets and South Graduates.

Elite group eyed for 2012 Olympic medal quest

By Marc Anthony Reyes

AN ELITE group of athletes will try to end the country's Olympic gold medal drought next year.

Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. yesterday announced plans to handpick 10 to 18 athletes who will be given special training for the 2012 London Games.

Aside from training, we can see them through the Olympic qualifying," said Cojuangco in a radio interview. "It's better that the early we build our team and take care of it before the Olympics."

The POC chief didn't say how much will be earmarked for the training of the selected athletes, who will be chosen based on their performances in the Indonesia Southeast Asian Games in November.

Boxing, taekwondo, weightlifting, archery and shooting are the country's best chances for an Olympic medal.

Cojuangco said the International Olympic Committee Solidarity Fund will also take care of the Olympic bidding of 12 promising athletes.

He said the athletes will undergo periods to excel in the world stage and he gives P300 allowance per month aside from a budget worth P5,000 for their international training and competitions.

Former tennis player Jessie Montellano and swimmer Ryan Arabejo were previous beneficiaries of the POC Solidarity Fund.

Tigers keep tennis crown

By Dennis G. Rom
Libre

BOOKIE KIM has names provided the inspirational points as defending University of Santo Tomas edged De La Salle University to sweep the UAAP men's tennis title in the twenty of the 72nd Memorial Benavides Cup.

The 20-year-old Isunza shattered the 2-2 tie by dumping John Will Baldemoro in the third and final singles, 6-3, 6-1, to give the Tigers regained their second straight title and seventh crown overall.

The win also prevented DLSU from achieving a title double after the Lady Archers earlier scored their second straight crown.

It was quite a fitting send-off for former national team standout Raul Sanmamaya, who is leaving to coach after leading the UST men's team to seven and the women's crown team to five titles.

Sanmamaya, son of volleyball volleyball coaching duo Angge, said he was much elevated and help national action Choice Parmentio make it to the WTA Circuit.

PCU, RTU tossers grab early beach volley lead

PHILIPPINE CHRISTIAN U Dasmariñas and Rizal Technological U came up with big plays in the endgame to win their opening matches yesterday in the first leg of the Petron Lucban beach volleyball tour stopover.

Returning finalists Alyanna Maria Domingo and Ana Alexa Adolfo of PCU displayed excellent pace as they weathered RTU ace Johnson Hart and new partner Shaella Bueno, 21-17, at University of the East-Caloocan sand courts.

RTU's Anna Isunza and Johnson Hart also posted a 21-18 beating of UE's Ryzel Cueva and Francelyn Cate.

The 18-year-old Rosada and Abut used their power serves to overcome a 5-8 deficit and gain the upperhand to Group A.

RTU shares the Group A lead with Sin Bebauchan-Cardet's Jaket Cervantes and April Lyn Reyes, who muscled off La Salle-Dasmariñas tandem Rainé Pangan and Shaine Calcaregnos, 21-15.

The top two teams per automatic berths to the Battle of Champions late this year.

Top 2010 driver to be feted tomorrow

NOEL PEDROSA-FLETCH who missed out in the different categories of motorsports in 2010 will receive the Golden Wheel Driver of the Year Award tomorrow night at the Regent Theatre in Pasig.

Jean Santiago (amateur), Jaime Bautista (motocross), Jhoven Aguilar (motocross), Jean Barbara Manuela (karting), Abraham Enrique Collado (4x4 off road), Alex Perez (drifting), Williams Tan (speed boating), and Jonathan Tiu (drag racing) will be recognized for their remarkable feats last year.

They will also be in contention for the highest honor of the night: the prestigious Gold en Wheel Driver of the Year award.

A household of Philippine motorsports godfather Johnny Tan, the Golden Wheel Awards has been a traditional Awards night with Philippine Sports Commission chair Richie Garcia and Automobile Association Philippines motorsports committee chair Mandy Ethuyo keynoting the rites.

Two lucky motorists will also receive the Golden Wheel awards—Aiden Kattar of the Year Aiden Gribel and Aidan Jaime Javier of the Year Yamaha Sienna Interior.

Circuit racing legend Sir Benjamin Tolk will be honored by the Hall of Fame while several media outlets, including the Inquirer, will also be feted for programs supporting motorsports.

Inquirer assistant sports editor Dennis Orbino will be given a citation for his many "Voice of the Speedway" that also won the Pinoy Ford Foundation award as the Best Motorsports Story.

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IN THIS ISSUE

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■ Maynilad Water spending P2.6B to plug leaks /B5

Editor Raul G. Manalo ● Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

6%+ interest Rate

BSP: Traders more upbeat than ever before

By Michelle V. Nunez

Confidence now at an all-time high, survey says

BUSINESSMEN ARE more upbeat over their profitability expectations and outlook on the economy's overall performance in the next quarter than at any other time in the past, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' quarterly Business Expectation Survey (BES).

The BSP said that the latest business confidence survey stood at an all-time high due to expectations of sustained recovery of the global economy and commitment of the government to implement business-friendly reforms.

The BSP survey, conducted from Jan. 6 to Feb. 14, showed that the "new quarter confidence index" stood at +39.4 percent.

The index reflects companies' business expectations as well as their views on the economy's performances in the next three months, in this case, the second quarter of 2011.

This is the highest figure recorded since the central bank launched the BES in 2001. The figure is also up by 8.6 percentage points from +31 percent recorded in the previous survey.

In computing the confidence index, the BSP subtracts the number of pessimistic respondents from those who say that prospects appear rosy.

According to Ms. Cyd Tuaño-Amador, BSP assistant governor, the latest confidence index suggests that the Philippines this year has the potential to sustain the robust growth of last year.

Businessmen's confidence rose after the government announced that it would step up its effort to attract private sector investments in public infrastructure. The companies also cited the recovery of the global economy from the recession in 2009, and growth in remittances, Amador said.

As a result, the companies now believe that demand for their goods and services will improve in the next quarter, Amador said.

"This provides ground for optimism that the economy [which grew by 7.3 percent last year—the fastest in 34 years] is poised to continue its growth momentum," she said in a briefing yesterday.

This rare of confidence will encourage businesses to make more investments, generate more jobs and raise overall income.

Despite the optimism, however, are less optimistic, the BSP said.

Survey results showed that the "current quarter confidence index" remained in the positive territory at +47.5 percent, but declined from the

last se

Violence in Libya may push oil up to $159

SINGAPORE—Brent oil on Thursday surged near 7.5 percent to its highest level since August 2008 on concern that the bloody unrest in Libya—whose crude output has been cut by more than a quarter—could spread to other major producers, including top exporter Saudi Arabia.

Libya's average output of 1.6 million barrels per day (bpd) was slashed by least 400,000 bpd since violence broke out in the world's No. 12 oil exporter, according to Reuters calculations.

Brent crude on Thursday rallied by as much as $8.04 a barrel to a peak of $115.79.

Brent has risen around 25 percent in four days.

According to Reuters market analyst Ming Tay, technical charts show that Brent may rise up to $130 a barrel in 2011—well above its 2008 high of $147.50.

The analyst expects US crude to touch $120 a barrel.

US crude for April delivery rose to $103.41, the highest since September 2008.

FINANCIAL 4A

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
Feb. 24, 2011
43.790

STOCK MARKET
Feb. 24, 2011
26.20

Share prices dip on oil concerns

STOCK PRICES declined for the fifth straight session on oil concerns triggered by escalating tension in North Africa and the Middle East.

MARKETS B2

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TOYOTA moving forward

PH named among 'most promising' countries

Citigroup notes potential high growth rate

By Doris C. Dumlao

GLOBAL BANKING giant Citigroup has identified the Philippines as one of 11 countries that will likely stand out in a globally integrated economy on basis of high growth rates and investment returns over the next 40 years.

Citi, in a global economic research document, 21 Odd "Global Growth Generation (3G)" introduced the concept of 3G to refer to countries, regions, cities, individuals, sectors, industries, firms, technologies, products and asset classes that over the next five, 10, 20 and 40 years could deliver high growth and profitable investment opportunities.

The 30 studies takes into account several components including domestic saving investment, demographic prospects, health, education, quality of institutions and politics and trade openness.

The countries that scored highest in the 3G index in terms of growth potential are Bangladesh, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Mongolia, Nigeria, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

In the research note done by Citi global economists Willem Buiter and Ebrahim Rahbari, Vietnam had the highest index score at 6.96, followed by China (6.81), India (6.71), Indonesia (6.70), Mongolia (6.63), and the Philippines (6.60).

The study projected a 5% percent annual per capita gross domestic product (GDP) growth for the Philippines between 2010 and 2050. At $3,684 or 0.3 percent of the US level, the Philippines' level of real GDP per capita paid it to 32nd place in its sample.

The country's population was projected to grow from 93.6 million in 2010 to 146.2 million in 2050. Its population of working age is also projected to grow by 66.2 percent over that period.

The Citi research also noted that the Philippines' exports of investment units was "unbelievably" low at 14.5 percent of GDP for the period 2006-2009.

"Even if the data underwrite the investment rate, there can be little doubt that the investment rate will have to increase substantially if the projected growth rates are to materialize," the research said.

The Philippines scored "quite well" on the 30 index with a value of 0.68, the research added.

Investments in education and health should help it improve its score and its growth prospects, while institutional quality, which also pulled down its 3G index score, should be raised next, the research said.

Unlike Indonesia, which is often mentioned as one of the potential new tiger economies, the Philippines barely got a mention. Its score average. After all, in terms of governance, institutional quality and human capital there is not much to choose between the two, and unlike Indonesia, the Philippines already managed a respectable growth rate without the access to cute (uncounted) growth provided by oil, natural gas and other non-renewable resource endowment," the study said.

"With the Philippines only from the natural resource curse, its prospects for improving institutional capacity would seem to be at least as good as those in Indonesia," it said.

The research also noted the country's relative discount "deepens" sending home remittances and establishing personal, professional and commercial contacts, links and networks in case were benefiting the country in the future.

Material governance and institutional reform were cited as necessary for the Philippines to join the Asian Tigers, including a movement of the state bureaucracies in the right direction.

"But such reforms have been shown to be feasible in other countries (as I-

RLC land banking, expansion programs seen costing P30B

Funding to come from upcoming stock rights offering

By Doris C. Dumlao

DOMINION LED property developer Robinsons Land Corp. has set a record capital spending of P30 billion for its upcoming fiscal year ending December 2011, to boost land banking and expand infrastructure segments.

Part of the funding will come from the scheduled P5.24-billion stock rights offering, SEC president Frederick Go said in an interview.

RLC Securities Financial Corp. has been instructed to arrange the sale of new shares to existing shareholders on April 11 to 15, Go said.

Subject to the approvals of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Philippine Stock Exchange, RLC is selling up to 1.36 billion new common shares at P3.8 each. Existing shareholders will have the right to subscribe to one new share for every two common shares held.

RLC has obtained the flexibility to issue new shares as stockholders approved in a special meeting on Wednesday an increase in its authorized capital stock to P6.2 billion from P3 billion.

The new authorized capital stock will be divided into 6.2 billion shares with a par value of P1 per share.

To date, RLC has only about 2.7 billion outstanding common shares, which means that it can issue a total of 5.5 billion new common shares in the years ahead. Only about a quarter of this will be used for the upcoming stock rights offering.

About 30 percent of the P30-billion capital spending planned for the next 18 months will be used for the expansion of RLC's shopping malls while another 20 percent will be used to bankroll more residential projects, the SEC chief said.

"For the biggest budget, about 40 percent of it, will be spent for land acquisition," Go said. "The balance will be for offices and hotels."

Taking advantage of the robust demand for business process outsourcing (BPO) space, Go said RLC was out to build five new office buildings within the Ortigas central business district. Three two new buildings, which should be completed in less than two years, will add 80,000 square meters to RLC's office property portfolio.

Optimistic on the prospects of the real estate sector this year, RLC also plans to acquire several assets that are suitable for mixed-use developments.

It was earlier reported that RLC is, for instance, bidding for the 300-hectare Steel Terminal Inc. complex in Tagaytay City, previously identified by the Aquino administration as among the prime assets to be placed on the auction block this year.

RLC grew its net profit for the quarter ending December last year by 37 percent year on year to P1.61 billion on a double-digit expansion in revenues across its shopping malls, residential, office and hotel businesses. The net profit attributable to equity holders of the parent firm for September to December, the last quarter in RLC's fiscal year, was fueled by a 21-percent rise in combined real estate and hotel revenues to P3 billion from a year ago. Cash flow as measured by earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization was up 12 percent year on year to P1.79 billion.

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FLI earmarks P12B for '11 capex

By Doris C. Dumlao

DOMINION LED property developer Filinvest Land Inc. has budgeted P12 billion for capital spending this year, more than double its capital outlay last year, to cope with fast-growing businesses.

The biggest portion of the capex budget was earmarked for residential projects. FLI said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange on Thursday, noting that construction works for mid-rise building (MRB) projects were going on full blast.

All of FLI's MRBs are under the "Oasis" series in Old Spac, Sta. Mesa, Pasig, Metro Cebu and Davao. This year, it plans to start development on two additions to the "Oasis" series, namely Oasis Point 1 and Bellos Oasis both in Metro Manila.

FLI will soon commence construction of The Grand, its low-rise or high-rise residential project on Mahogany corner Tukad and Mayapis Streets in Mabolo City. The Grand is FLI's first high-rise residential project in Metro Manila.

Outside of residential development, FLI president Joseph Yap said the company would also start this year the expansion of the Festival Supermall in Filinvest Corporate City Alabang, the development of 20 Centra, the retail component of Citra de Oro in the South Road Properties in Cebu and the construction of more business process outsourcing office buildings.

FLI is currently completing the construction of Vertex 2, which will bring to 12 the number of FLI's BPO office buildings within Southgate Cybertown in Filinvest Corporate City.

Next to the "Oasis" MRB series, the last of the 13 buildings at One Cebu Ortigas began construction in January this year. Five buildings have already been completed and two more are nearing completion ahead of schedule, the company said.

Treasury raises daily RTB offering

By Rancel W. Domingo

THE BUREAU of the Treasury again raised the daily offer for retail treasury bonds amid strong demand, allowing authorized banks to sell a total of P17.738 billion worth of bonds yesterday.

This was higher than the P16.15 billion and P11 billion offered to the public on Wednesday and Tuesday, the first two days of the offer period that will end on March 1.

Deputy National Treasurer Eduardo E. Mendoza said the 11 selling agents could sell up to P7.695 billion worth of five-year RTBs and P9.843 billion worth of 10-year RTBs.

On Wednesday, the BTr allowed a maximum of P7.25 billion for the five-year paper and P8.9 billion for the 10-year bond. This showed an increase from the maximum of P5.3 billion for each issue on Tuesday.

Underwriters had urged the government to award at least P100 billion for the 15th issue of RTBs, aimed at small investors who can put up a minimum investment of P5,000.

Also on Tuesday, the BTr awarded to institutional buyers P40 billion for each issue.

The five-year RTB fetched a coupon rate of 6 percent while the 10-year RTB got 7.25% percent. Interest is paid every quarter, but the amount is subject to a 20-percent withholding tax.

Further, P20 billion of the latest RTBs were allotted for government-owned and controlled corporations.

In a related development, National Treasurer Roberto S. Tan said the BTr had cancelled the auction for regular five-year T-bonds scheduled for March 1 to facilitate the smooth and orderly settlement of the current RTB offering.

BSP: Traders more upbeat

From page B1

+1Mich percent recorded in the previous survey.

Ronaldo Guevarra, director of the economic statistics department of the central bank, said the decline in the "current quarter index" was due to lower profitability of businesses at the start of the year, as well as an increase in global oil prices that had led to a surge in operating costs.

In the latest survey, there were 1,630 respondents representing companies nationwide.

Violence in Libya ...

From page B1

The unrest in Libya represents the first disruption to supply as a direct result of protests that have swept through the oil-producing regions of North Africa and the Middle East.

Oil markets are fearful that the unrest may affect Saudi Arabia, which not only pumps around 10 percent of the world's oil but is also the only holder of significant spare crude production capacity that may be used to plug supply gaps such as those being suffered by Libya.

"The situation in the Middle East is causing a lot of uncertainty in the market now, the risk of disruption to major producers in the region is what every investor is watching now," said Ben Kanajaya, a commodity derivatives manager at Sinvest in Jakarta, Reuters reported.

Pelham Smith Fenkoh's 4 million bpd of spare capacity, down to little margin in the global oil supply system to deal with output disruptions.

To date, the kingdom has escaped the popular protests against powerful corruption and oppression that have raged across the Arab world, toppling the long-time leaders of Egypt and Tunisia, and spreading as far as Saudi neighbor Bahrain.

"You can't ignore it. If you have trouble in Bahrain, there is a fear that the trouble spread to Saudi Arabia," said Ben Emons, a risk manager with Tokyo-based Mitsubishi Corp. "No one expected Egypt's Hosni Mubarak to go. Now anything is possible, and that is why everyone is watching this closely."

Saudi King Abdullah returned home on Wednesday from a three-month medical absence and ordered billions in benefits for his people to ease discontent that has prompted unrest across the Arab world.

Reuters

Share prices dip on oil concerns

From page B1

The main share Philippine Stock Exchange index lost another 28.28 points, or 0.7 percent, to finish at 3,730.86 on data made as investors suspected risk-taking due to the violence in oil-producing region.

The broader stock index, which has now declined by about 11 percent since the start of the year, found strong support near the 3,700 level.

"Investors are staying on the sidelines because of the Middle East tensions, and with oil prices reaching $100 per barrel, investors are not eager to come in the market in a big way," said ING Investment Management chief executive officer Neil Joseph Garcia.

The industrial and services sectors were the most battered counters for the day, falling by 1.25 percent and 1.75 percent, respectively.

Value turnover was low at P5.97 billion.

There were 99 decliners against 50 gainers.

Doris C. Dumlao

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Green design integrates building features that harness nature to provide comfort and cost savings. Aside from the unique wind-directing orientation of the two towers, Arya Residences also features a balcony with a dual purpose. The 1.2-meter depth of the balcony provides ample space for luxurious al fresco outdoor dining. The balcony turns into a sun shield that prevents the hot sun from penetrating the indoors.

Highrise living offers some of the best views of the city and for Arya Residences, these views are not only refreshing for the senses, but also provide a fresh perspective on living green.

Every orientation of the two towers of Arya Residences gives residents an impressive panorama of Bonifacio Global City's skyline—from the posh high Street to the business highrises that make BGC a dynamic place to live. This pioneer green residence also offers southeast-facing units that evoke quietude for those who are looking for more tranquil vistas in a busy city.

With their southeastern orientation, these special units will get a daily dose of gentle morning sun, perfect for alfresco breakfasts on the spacious balconies. The units also feature a picturesque view of the American Battle Monument in the Philippines, a favorite for its lush green plateau and contrasting pristine white markers. The presence of this historical site protects the southeast facing units, ensuring a perpetually unobstructed view and wind path.

Arya Residences has been designed to make the most of nature and its existing environment, whether it's to provide breathtaking views or eco-friendly and cost efficient solutions for high-rise dwellers.

The development's two towers have been positioned at an angle to direct the wind towards the units, naturally cooling the home and minimizing the need for air conditioning. Units feature large operable windows that not only allow residents to soak in a larger view, but also deliver better ventilation and natural lighting for healthier homes.

These design considerations make Arya Residences a wise investment choice with its thoughtful mix of eco-friendly planning, stylish touches, and comfortable living spaces. Plus, its future LEED® certification is an assurance that this investment will grow in value.

Join us on February 26 for a Saturday Picnic at the Sales Pavilion and catch the last few days of the February Reservation Entertainment Package.

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Maynilad Water spending ₱2.6B to plug leaks

Pilferage, pipe leakage

By Amy R. Borres

WEST ZONE concessionaire Maynilad Water Services Inc. has earmarked more than ₱2.6 billion this year to reduce its water losses from revenue-water arising from leakages and pilferage to at least 30 percent of output from 33 percent last year.

The amount reflects 53-percent increase from the ₱1.7 billion allocated last year for non-revenue water reduction projects in 2010, Maynilad said in a statement issued yesterday.

According to Maynilad, the amount would be spent for the improvement of its network infrastructure and its employees' training on various non-revenue water management practices. Such training programs, it said, were expected to help sustain Maynilad's non-revenue water reduction programs.

Maynilad said its water losses were 33 percent.

Ayden L. Dimasaca, head of the external non-revenue water department of Maynilad, said ₱936 million of the budget would be used for its selective pipe rehabilitation program. This aims to recover almost 140 million liters of water per day (MLD) in Sampaloc, Tondo and Quezon Boulevard.

Dimasaca added that Maynilad had also acquired a specialized leak detection device called "leak correlators" that work for large pipes. This, he said, will be a big help in locating leaks on primary lines.

Maynilad said it was also looking at air equipment that functions similarly to the Sahara mobile leak detection system.

"Both equipment will open possibilities in surveying primary networks that the company can subject to leak detection," he added.

Late last year, Maynilad has started the trial implementation of an automatic pressure regulating device (APD), which would help the company manage the excessive pressure in the pipe system.

Maynilad is owned and managed by DMCI-MPIC Water Co. Inc. (DMWC), a joint venture between Metro Pacific Investments Corp. and DMCI Holdings Inc. It currently services Bluebay (except San Andres and Sta. Ana), parts of Quezon City, Makati, Caloocan, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, Navotas, Malabon, Cavite City and certain towns in the province of Cavite.

Tiger Airways buying into SEAir

By Paolo S. Montealto

SINGAPORE-BASED budget carrier Tiger Airways is buying a 32.5-percent stake in local carrier Southeast Asian Airlines (SEAir), strengthening the partnership between the two companies that started with a controversial cooperation deal signed last year.

In a statement, Tiger Airways Holdings said it would pay $6 million for one-third of SEAir's total outstanding shares.

The sum would help SEAir expand its operations both locally and abroad. In turn, the acquisition gives Tiger Airways, one of Asia Pacific's leading budget carriers, a solid foothold in the local air travel market.

"Operating the same low cost business model as Tiger Airways, SEAir will offer the lowest possible fares to both international and domestic travelers in the Philippines," Tiger said in a statement.

"It will offer direct hard, point-to-point flights within a five-hour flying radius, using Airbus A320 aircraft and crew based in the Philippines," it added.

This follows the recent launch of SEAir's international services between the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA) in Clark Freeport, Pampanga, and Singapore in December of last year.

Earlier this month, SEAir also started flights to Macau and Hong Kong, also from Clark, using aircraft leased from Tiger Airways.

"We are delighted that Tiger Airways wants to become a significant shareholder in SEAir, SEAir's president and CEO Jeffrey Cajayon said.

For his part, Tiger president and group CEO Tony Davis said "we look forward to expanding our relationship with Tiger Airways and contributing further to the economic development of the Philippines, promoting increased regional tourism and creating more job opportunities for Filipinos."

Both companies said they expected to finalize the terms of the transaction soon.

PNOC EC stepping up exploration activities

PNOC EXPLORATION Corp. has allocated ₱5.25 billion for the exploration and development of prospective petroleum and coal resources within its service contracts this year.

Bestselling to PNOC EC then and CEO Gerardino C. Lopez, the company plans to spend ₱4.35 billion of the amount for its planned coal and power plant projects and contingency measures, ₱167.61 million for materials and equipment acquisitions, and ₱173.7 million for operations.

Lopez said among the company's priority projects were the Limbang coal project in Zamboanga Sibugay; the planned power plants in Isabela province and Malampaya in Cantilan, Surigao del Sur; and the Malampaya gas project in Palawan.

For the Limbang project alone, PNOC EC plans to spend ₱1.05 billion this year to develop the site, with a target of securing permits and service the second quarter of 2012.

Ground by coal operating contract 41, the Limbang coal project, according to the company's disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, was reported to host 19 MCTC's current production from its existing operations.

This is also the first of several projects programmed for the next five years for CDC 41. "There are almost an increasing the company's coal reserve inventory by the planned 35-megawatt power plants in the area. The project, however, was still subject to the approval of the PNOC EC board.

For its petroleum business, PNOC EC is planning to participate in the local downstream oil sector by putting up the necessary infrastructure that will enable the company to import, store and supply refined petroleum products in the domestic market.

In particular, the downstream oil and coal arm of state-run Philippine National Oil Co. is studying the possibility of setting up coal farms in North and Far North Luzon that can also cater to other industry players.

In the meantime, Lopez said PNOC EC was now preparing to follow on offering that would allow it to comply with the listing rule requiring a minimum of 10 percent public ownership for publicly listed companies.

Currently, PNOC EC is 99.79 percent owned by the Philippine government through PNOC, while the remaining 0.21 percent is held by the public.

Amy R. Borres

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DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 11-01
Series of 2011

SUBJECT : PRESCRIBING RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 810, SERIES OF 2009, ENTITLED: "INSTITUTIONALIZING THE CERTIFICATION SCHEME FOR DIGITAL SIGNATURES AND DIRECTING THE APPLICATION OF DIGITAL SIGNATURES IN E-GOVERNMENT SERVICES"

Pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act No. 8792 otherwise known as the "Electronic Commerce Act of 2000," its Implementing Rules and Regulations, and the provisions of Executive Order (EO) No. 810 issued on 15 June 2009 entitled, "Institutionalizing the Certification Scheme for Digital Signatures and Directing the Application of Digital Signatures in E-Government Services," this Department Administrative Order (DAO) is hereby issued to prescribe the general rules and guidelines for the implementation of the EO:

1. **Scope**

This DAO prescribes the general rules and guidelines for the implementation of the National Certification Scheme for Digital Signatures in the Philippines as adopted by virtue of EO 810, as it appears in Annex A.

2. **Accreditation of Certification Authorities (CAs)**

The rules governing the accreditation of CAs are prescribed under DAO No. 10-09 issued by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) on 29 September 2010.

3. **Technical Standards for Digital Signatures**

For the initial implementation of EO 810, and to ensure interoperability of digital certification technology and support international cooperation on certification services including mutual recognition and cross-certification, the accredited CAs are hereby required to use internationally-accepted standards for digital signatures, as may be prescribed by the Commission on Information and Communications Technology (CICT) – National Computer Center (NCC), in coordination with the DTI-Bureau of Product Standards (BPS). This set of standards, to be issued as a separate document by the Root CA, shall be updated from time-to-time to consider the emergence of new international standards and/or updates on the current standards.

4. **Establishing the Identity of the Subscribers of Digital Certificates**

An individual applicant or the authorized representative of the juridical applicant shall personally apply for a digital certificate with a Registration Authority (RA) or directly with the CA. Face-to-face certification is necessary in addition to the submission of the following minimum requirements.

4.1. As individual applicant is required to submit the following minimum requirements for verification of identity and address:

4.1.1 Birth certificate printed on security paper for Filipino citizen or Alien Certificate of Registration (ACR) card for a foreigner

4.1.2 Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)

4.1.3 One (1) Unified Multi-Purpose Identification (UMID)-compliant card. In the absence of a UMID-compliant card, two (2) valid identification (ID) cards with photo and signature. (In considering which ID cards are valid, reference may be made to Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Circular No. 608, Series of 2008, as may be amended.)

4.1.4 Passport-size colored photo taken within the last six (6) months

4.1.5 Valid address supported by a copy of the latest utility bill with the same address found on the valid identification card (if the utility bill is in the name of another person, applicant must show proof of relationship); or a Barangay Clearance

4.1.6 Phone number (mobile and/or landline number)

The RA or CA may waive the birth certificate requirement if the applicant presents his/her valid Philippine Passport.

4.2 The authorized representative of the juridical applicant is required to submit the following minimum requirements for verification of identity (both of the organization and authorized representative) and address:

For a juridical company representative:

4.2.1 Birth certificate printed on security paper for Filipino citizen or Alien Certificate of Registration (ACR) card for a foreigner

4.2.2 Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)

4.2.3 One (1) Unified Multi-Purpose Identification (UMID)-compliant card. In the absence of a UMID-compliant card, two (2) valid identification (ID) cards with photo and signature. (In considering which ID cards are valid, reference may be made to BSP Circular No. 608, Series of 2008, as may be amended.)

4.2.4 Company-issued ID card with photo and signature or UMID-compliant card

4.2.5 Passport-size colored photo taken within the last six (6) months

4.2.6 Phone number (mobile and/or landline number)

The RA or CA may waive the birth certificate requirement if the applicant presents his/her valid Philippine Passport.

For the juridical applicant:

Government:

4.2.7 Taxpayer Identification Number of the juridical applicant

4.2.8 Authorization letter/board resolution naming the authorized representatives (up to a maximum of three (3))

4.2.9 Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) registration number

4.2.10 Valid address of the government entity supported by a copy of the latest utility bill with the same address

Non-Government:

4.2.11 Taxpayer Identification Number of the juridical applicant

4.2.12 Authorization letter/board resolution naming the authorized representative (up to a maximum of three (3))

4.2.13 Copy of Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) business registration or DTI Certificate of Business Name Registration

4.2.14 Copy of Business Permit issued by the Local Government Unit (LGU)

4.2.15 Social Security System (SSS) Employer Clearance

4.2.16 Valid address of the organization supported by a copy of the latest utility bill with the same address

The juridical entity/organization shall be responsible for notifying the RA or CA in writing should there be any changes in its authorized representatives or address.

4.3 Appearance in Sec. 03 of ITTDAO 10-09, subject certificate has a validity period of one (1) year. For the renewal of the digital certificate with the same RA or CA, the RA or CA may waive face-to-face verification of identity of the subscriber (individual, authorized company representative or juridical entity). The RA or CA may allow online submission of applications for renewal of digital certificate subscriptions.

4.4 Should there be any changes in the form and/or content of the subscriber's requirements previously submitted to the RA or CA specified in Secs. 4.1 to 4.2 of this Order, the RA or CA shall require submission of the amended/new documents upon renewal of digital certificate subscription. In this instance, the RA or CA may require face-to-face verification of the subscriber.

5. **Dispute Resolution**

The Philippine Accreditation Office (PAO) shall handle disputes pertaining to the accreditation of CAs or other issues arising from the same, pursuant to DTI DAO No. 10-09, Series of 2010.

As the Root CA, the National Computer Center (NCC) under the CICT shall handle disputes pertaining to the use and issuance of digital certificates or other issues related to the same, pursuant to NCC-CICT's implementing guidelines.

6. **Other Applicable Laws and Penalties**

The use and issuance of digital certificates shall be covered by the provisions of Republic Act No. 8792 or the Electronic Commerce Act of 2000, Republic Act No. 8484 or the Access Devices Regulation Act of 1998 and Republic Act No. 7394 or the Consumer Act of the Philippines and their Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRRs). Hence, violations committed against such laws in relation to the use and issuance of digital certificates shall be subject to the penalties applicable under said laws and their IRRs.

7. **Miscellaneous Provisions**

This DAO does not preclude the other government agencies designated to provide the necessary services to implement the scheme from issuing their own set of rules or guidelines.

8. **Separability Clause**

In the event that any of the provisions of this Order is declared invalid or unconstitutional, all the provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid and in effect.

9. **Effectivity**

This Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication of its full text in the Official Gazette or in one (1) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved:

GREGORY L. DOMINGO
Secretary

Recommending Approval:

ATTY. ADRIAN S. CRISTOBAL, JR. [illegible]
Undersecretary for International Trade

Date: February 19, 2011

ANNEX A

CERTIFICATION SCHEME FOR DIGITAL SIGNATURES

- Government employees/entities – certificates for all government transactions
- Non-government individuals/entities – certificates specific to a government transaction (specific purpose certificates)
- Private individuals/entities and private/owned employees

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
Operation and Management of a Lamp Waste Facility

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PHILIPPINE ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECT
ADB LOAN No. 2307 – PHI

The Government of the Philippines, through the Department of Energy (DOE) and with loan assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), is implementing the Philippine Energy Efficiency Project (PEEP).

The PEEP is an initiative of the Government of the Philippines aimed at demonstrating the economic and environmental benefits of a series of energy efficiency (EE) projects in the residential, commercial, industrial and public sectors. In addition, it addresses a key public health issue of residual mercury that is likely to increase through the implementation of EE lighting projects.

The PEEP seeks an Operator that shall provide a suitable site for the Lamp Waste Facility (LWF) which will be procured by the DOE, and operate and maintain the said facility for a specified period.

The Operator shall be a registered waste treatment/recycler. Preference will be given to an Operator that currently has a permit on local lamp waste disposal. Since most of the lamp waste is generated in Metro Manila, the site location should preferably be in this region to avoid excessive transportation costs. The site should have a building to locate the LWF and covered storage space for fluorescent lamps.

The DOE now invites eligible Operators to signify their interest in providing the services. Interested Operators must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (name, locations of business, services provided, years of operation, ownership information, proposed location of facility and availability of LWF manpower, past experience in lamp waste collection, transportation and treatment.) Operators may associate to enhance their qualifications.

The Operator will be selected and engaged under the **Consultants' Qualifications Selection (CQS) procedures** in accordance with the Guidelines on the Use of Consultants by the Asian Development Bank.

DOE reserves the right to accept or reject any Expression of Interest, to annul the selection process, and to reject any Expression of Interest prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected party or parties.

Interested consultants may obtain further information from the address below during office hours from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Raquel S. Rubiganog
Project Manager, Lamp Waste Management Facility, PEEP
Energy Research and Testing Laboratory Services
Department of Energy
4th Building, DOE, Energy Center, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila, Philippines
Tel. (632) 479-2900 local 372
E-mail: rsrubi@doe.gov.ph

Deadline for submission of Expressions of Interest is 15 March 2011 at 9:00 a.m. to the address below:

Loreta G. Ayson, CESO I
Office of the Undersecretary
Project Director, PEEP
Department of Energy
Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio
Taguig City, Metro Manila

Approved for Publication and Posting:

(Sgd.) Assistant Secretary Ramon Allan V. Roa
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
Department of Energy
Energy Center, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila

(PEA-February 25, 2011)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Trade and Industry
Securities and Exchange Commission
SEC Bldg., Ortigas, Mandaluyong City

CORPORATION FINANCE DEPARTMENT

IN THE MATTER OF THE
[illegible]
Registration

NOTICE

[illegible]

Name	Position
[illegible]	[illegible]

[illegible]

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Trade and Industry
Securities and Exchange Commission
SEC Bldg., Ortigas, Mandaluyong City

CORPORATION FINANCE DEPARTMENT

IN THE MATTER OF THE
[illegible]
Registration

NOTICE

[illegible]

Name	Position
[illegible]	[illegible]

[illegible]

(PEA-Feb 25, 2011)

Philippine Stock Exchange

Currencies

Country	Unit	Peso Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	43.7170	1.000000	43.7170
Japan	Yen	0.5261	0.012033	23.0295
United Kingdom	Pound	71.7510	1.641000	70.7135
Hong Kong	Dollar	5.6010	0.128100	5.5990
Switzerland	Franc	47.7170	1.091300	46.7170
Canada	Dollar	43.7170	1.000000	43.7170
Singapore	Dollar	34.5010	0.789170	34.3631
Australia	Dollar	44.7170	1.023000	43.7170
Norway	Krone	7.8010	0.178400	7.7994
South Korea	Won	0.0388	0.000887	0.0388
Sweden	Krona	6.7170	0.153600	6.7170
Euro	Euro	60.8010	1.390700	60.7994
Taiwan	Dollar	1.4810	0.033870	1.4810
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	11.6510	0.266500	11.6510
Kuwait	Dinar	154.7170	3.538400	154.7170
Bahrain	Dinar	115.9010	2.650700	115.9010
UAE	Dirham	11.9010	0.272200	11.9010
Qatar	Riyal	12.0010	0.274400	12.0010
Oman	Rial	113.5010	2.596200	113.5010
Egypt	Pound	7.7170	0.176500	7.7170
India	Rupee	0.9710	0.022210	0.9710
Malaysia	Ringgit	14.0010	0.320200	14.0010
Thailand	Baht	1.4610	0.033410	1.4610
China	Yuan	6.6810	0.152800	6.6810

Asian style negotiations

THE GUERRERO game is on for the three Filipinos in China who were spared the death penalty for drug trafficking.

The Chinese government surprised their executions ahead of the visit of Vice President Jejomar Binay who made a personal appeal for executive clemency for them.

Outside of saying that the stay of execution was done within the scope of Chinese law, nothing was said on how long the suspension will last or whether the sentence could result in reduction of their sentences.

Wisely, Binay refrained from second guessing the Chinese government's intentions or speculating on the final outcome of what appears to be an unprecedented cohabitation of its tough laws on prohibited drugs.

With China still up in the air, the families and friends of the three Filipinos have to continue to cheat the gates of heaven with prayers for Filipino intervention to persuade the Chinese authorities to interpret, or in tablet many scientific a long third, reverse the rules of law.

China's handling of this issue is typically Asian: non-confrontational and mindful of possible loss of face by the other party.

It did not give us outright "no" to the eleventh hour plea for clemency as spun off by hang-wringing realist for policy on drug trafficking which has drawn sharp criticism from European countries.

Behavior

Although Binay practically came a-begging for mercy, China accorded him the courtesy due the second highest ranking official of another country.

Without making any concessions, China's top negotiators accepted the hand-delivered letter of President Aquino and the three letters that purport to show that the three Filipinos were mere cogs of an international drug syndicate.

The statement's lofty sound by the presidential authorities and the local Chinese embassy were devoid of "in your face" words. The effort to accommodate loss of face by Filipinos of friends was apparent.

The "conciliatory" approach should not come as a surprise to Filipino businessmen who have, in the past, sat in the negotiation table with their Chinese, Japanese or South Korean counterpart.

Talks among Asian businessmen are often conducted in an atmosphere of respect and cordiality. The pecking order in the corporate hierarchy is scrupulously observed.

At the start of the initial meeting, business cards are politely exchanged using both hands, not tossed or flipped around, because the card is meant to be an extension of its owner's personality.

I recall an incident where a Japanese businessman, who was too busy to stand up to give his card, slid it on the table at the direction of the intended recipient. He must have pushed the card too strong it fell on the floor. Shrewd by the hostess behavior, none of the Asians present in the meeting picked it up. It was relegated to trash.

Police reply

It is considered rude to cause's ears or point a finger to another to call attention to an issue. The same sets, however, for some Western businessmen are considered acceptable behavior or effective bargaining techniques during contentious negotiations.

The seventies saw in taking down a request (not a demand be-

corporate ecialties nila

Noel Fabiencos

cause that would be paalis ka (exit "no") in a political apologetic way to the other party does not appear to have been rejected relentless.

In explaining the reason behind the refusal, words like "you're asking," "ridiculous," "impossible" or anything that would imply that the other party was being unreasonable are avoided.

Kim's ethnic humor or comic sarcasm comes in handy to lessen the acceptable requests or make it less embarrassing for the requesting party to reconsider its position.

In one meeting I attended, a counteroffer that could increase the production costs of a Japanese company was deftly turned in half-way English by its Korean officers with his palm on his head, "If I agree to that my company will declare the next cost from my salary, then my wife will divorce me!"

Because the remarks touched a raw nerve among the Filipinos present (the unfolding scandal of fixed wives), the ensuing laughter made it easy to withdraw the counteroffer.

Benefits

It is a big "no, no" for one party to frown the other into a box or in a situation that gives the impression that would be paalis ka (exit "no") in a political apologetic way to the other party does not appear to have been rejected relentless.

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PRULINK Investments of Variable Life Insurance Premiums	PRU LIFE UK	
	Feb. 23, 2011	Feb. 18, 2011
Blackrock - Peso	1.05575	1.05758
Managed Fund - Peso	1.08868	1.07599
Growth Fund - Peso	0.47887	0.47888
Equity Fund - Peso	1.11984	1.11985
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.06480	1.06775
Secured Return Fund I	1.07175	1.07017
Secured Return Fund II	1.05587	1.05867
Protector Fund - Peso	1.00484	1.00818
Money Market Fund - Peso	1.02008	1.02024

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THE CENTER FOR POP MUSIC PHILIPPINES INC.

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0933-1857128 • 0923-7251885

PH named among ...

MEDICARE - ONE OF THE LEADING HMO IN THE INDUSTRY & PANDAYANG FINO, AT LAKAS NA PANTALAN (PFI) HEALTHCARE CONTRACT SIGNING. MEDICARE Health Systems, Inc. headed by Col. Esteban Delfingil Uy, Jr., Chairman/CEO recently signed the renewed agreement as healthcare provider of PFI. Present during the signing were (seated from L-R) MEDICare officers Mr. Rosendo A. Romero, VP Business Dev.; Dr. Eugene L. Dagoc, Medical Director; and Mr. Jeanette Uy Guanzon, Treas. VP; (L. Leah Uy Tom, SVP & Deputy Medical Director; Dr. Alfonso R. Salvagio, EVP & General Manager; and, PFI officers Mr. Antonio Ignacio Jr., National President; Atty. Tomas Dimaala, Legal Service; Ms. Ruby Maria G. Cardenas, Business Treasurer; Mr. Jaime Hernandez, President/Head Office Chapter; (Standing L-R) Dr. Alfredo C. Aganon, Medicare's AVP Operations; Ms. Cristina Aragon, PFI's Acting Chief Health Services Section; Ms. Nida Ignacio; Ms. Sylvia A. Villanueva, National Auditor; and, Dr. Alfred C. Benitez, Medicare Coordinator.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. VIII
Tacloban City
February 23, 2011

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/establishment have filed with the Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

	Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/ Citizenship	Position
1.	TONG-IL PRECISION ENTERPRISE, INC.	Mr. Jae Il Kim/ Korean	GC Manager
2.	HI TECHNOLOGIES (PHILS.), INC.	Mr. Kevin Foss/ Japanese	Technical Advisor
3.	PRIMA TECH PHILS., INC.	Mr. Kook Lee/ Korean	Senior Manager – MIT Division
4.	MP CO., INC.	Mr. Takeshi Iwase/ Japanese	Executive Director
5.	HONDA KIETS MANUFACTURING CORP.	Mr. Tetsuyoshi Hayashi/ Japanese	Assistant Vice President – Production Advisor
6.	HOUSE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT PTE. LTD.	Mr. Toru Fukunaga/ Japanese	Advisor – Unit Staff
7.	HOUSE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT PTE. LTD.	Mr. Masanori Horikoshi/ Japanese	Technical Advisor – I Cube Production
8.	SYK-TRANSNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOUNDATION, INC.	Mr. Shogo Yonezu/ Japanese	Director
9.	HONDA KIETS MANUFACTURING CORP.	Mr. Ryoko Yonezu/ Japanese	Assistant Vice President – Officer Division Director Manager
10.	YAMAHA MOTOR PHILIPPINES, INC.	Mr. Takahiro Aoki/ Japanese	Senior Head Quality Assurance

If you have any information/objection in the above-mentioned applications please communicate with the Regional Director.

ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ JR. CESO III
Regional Director

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Leyte
PROVINCE OF LAMAO DEL NORTE
Mac Arthur Highway, Brgy. Poblacion, Lamao del Norte
Phone/Fax No. (047) 555-0000

OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY TO BID

The Provincial Government of Lamao Del Norte is hereby inviting bidders to apply to bid for:

A.	Name of Project	Supply and delivery of CCC canvas blocks for the CCC multipurpose building
	Location / ABC	MCC, Wate, Sagadan, Talondi, Lamao del Norte / P 1,500,000.00
B.	Name of Project	Supply and delivery of office furniture and fixtures for the Provincial Capitol edifice
	Location / ABC	MCC, Wate, Sagadan, Talondi, Lamao del Norte / P 2,000,000.00

PHILGEPS POSTING	DATE
Posting of the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and Bid Documents on the Philgeps and the website of the procuring entity, and posting of the complete bid documents in at least three (3) conspicuous places in the province	March 3, 2011 @ 8:00 am
Pre-bid conference	March 8, 2011 @ 10:00 am
Deadline for submission and receipt of bids	March 10, 2011 @ 8:00 am

For any inquiries please call MAC Secretariat, Telephone No. 123-547-1023.

The Lamao del Norte Provincial Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality therein, or accept the bid most advantageous to the government, without incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders, in accordance with Republic Act 9184.

Conforme:
Name and Signature of Authorized Representative of Bidder
Date

(PBAC Secretariat, Feb. 25, 2011)

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URGENTLY NEEDED...

CREATIVE WRITERS
RESEARCHERS
FLOOR DIRECTOR
SYSTEM ENGINEER

APPLY **NOW** AT
TELEVISION AND PRODUCTION EXPONENTS, INC.
475 Reliable Avenue, Reliable Subdivision
Loyola Heights, Quezon City

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

[illegible]

Republic of the Philippines
DR. JOSE FABELLA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
Lopez de Vega St., Sta. Cruz, Manila

INVITATION TO BID

The Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital hereby invites interested bidders to supply/s and bid for the supply and delivery of:

POSSESSORY SUPPLIES	ABC PHP 200,000

Bid documents may be secured at the BAC Secretariat, Administrative Office upon payment of non-refundable fee in the Cashier's Office. For details, please contact telephone numbers 733-1144 local 116/733-1111.

Schedule of Activities:

Pre-bid Conference	March 7, 2011, 2:00 p.m.	Venue: Family Planning Conference Room
Bid Opening	March 14, 2011, 2:00 p.m.	

All prospective bidders are eligible to bid as long as they are not blacklisted by the government. Pre-qualification, post-qualification and assessment of bidders shall be done through the BAC. The Hospital reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract without incurring any liability, and make due notice to the affected bidders.

Bidders should have a valid PhilGEPS Certificate of Registration and Membership in the category of Supplier as the primary purpose.

Bidding documents shall be sold for a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00).

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 2:00 p.m. of March 14, 2011. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of a manager's check, cashier's check, or bank guarantee confirmed by the Philippine Government in the amount of two percent (2%) of the ABC.

Bid opening shall be on March 14, 2011, 2:00 p.m. at the Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital Conference Room. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The Hospital reserves the right to waive any minor defect in any bid submitted.

For further information, please refer to:

EDMUNDO T. ILEM, M.D.
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PBAC Secretariat, Feb. 25, 2011)

A PHILIPPINE HYDROGRAPHIC AND GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY COMPANY is looking for the following:

GEOPHYSICIST

Applicants must have at least 5 years relevant experience in both land and marine geophysics and be prepared to work on both small inshore boats and large offshore survey vessels.

Interested persons should send their resume with photograph, and details of all past survey experience to:

AZTEC G. COLMENARES
HUB-AXIA INC.
BUILDING 1, CEBU VALLEY CLUB
PUSOK, LAPU-LAPU CITY 6015, CEBU
T: 09.15.7 / 032.340.0000
Website: www.aguaserve.com
Fax No.: (032) 341-1111

More Classifieds on B6 and on pages:

A18 Municipality of Arakan
A18 Province of Cebu
A18 Province of Southern Leyte
A20 DORELCO
A20 PNOC

JOB-Libre
Use advertisers, inquiries - please! Mix JobMarket package at 637-8888 loc 516
You can now checkout more jobs in JobMarket Libre
JOB Market

OBITUARIES

CECILIO HALILI PENSON

Beloved Husband, Father, Grandfather,
Entrepreneur, Environmentalist
DENR "Likas Yaman" Awardee

1 February 1918 - 25 February 2004

We love you so and miss you still Papa Ciling!

Together with our dear mother
Nena Lagdameo-Penson, **Dwight**, **Margie** Juico,
Cecil Jr., **Dick**, **Polly** Aquino, **Emmet**,
Chari Borja, **Joey**, **Rally** & **Meca** Prieto

Our spouses, children, grandchildren, relatives and friends, request the pious readers and all who knew him or of him, to please say a little prayer for our Papa Ciling and all the souls in purgatory, that they find eternal rest in God's peace.

May his ideals of Saydoism in environmental and social concerns remain alive in us all.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

[illegible]

CUBAO
Very near EDSA
Ignacio Gordon Street
(Beside St.)
1,100 SQM
25.m/s frontage
For Residential
Commercial Cond.
0305-1379
636-1351
0917-5203878

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

[illegible]

PUBLIC NOTICES

[illegible]

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

[illegible]

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

[illegible]

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

[illegible]

PUBLIC NOTICES

[illegible]

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

[illegible]

ROLEX
LOUIS VUITTON

OBITUARIES

"The Lord is my shepherd ... and I will dwell in the house forever." — Psalm 23

Jose Caleon Calderon

September 16, 1929 – February 13, 2011

He is the Daddy, children and grandchildren of Pinky and James Ordoñez and Abbie, Nessa and Jess D'Mare, Jerry and Janet III, Arjie and John, John III and Jonathan, and Rhoda and Butch Ace Jr. and Kenneth; nephews, their preferred, godchild to our Lord Jesus Christ for Jesus's life and to all those who attended their lives and support.

His remains is to rest in the Central United Methodist Church, 3 de Agosto, Iloilo.

Services will be held nightly at 7 pm and the last message is set to be on March 1, 2011 at 7:30 pm, followed by the interment at Pavia Catholic Cemetery, Arnaud St., Pavia City.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
- Copy of Death Certificate
- Any identification document (ID.)

BUSINESS Friday

Business Features Editor: Margie Quiroga-Espino

MICROVENTURES helps scale up operations of neighborhood eatery (yari-yari) owners.

A NEW kind of value chain that brings products even closer to the market is making headway, Gilis and Grasya people aver.

It is possible to earn a profit and do good at the same time

People power of the most profitable kind

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

A VETERAN social development worker soothingly remarked during a major conference that a group or company cannot rightfully claim that it is "doing good" if it is "making a profit."

As far as the leader of the non-government organization is concerned, a decent profit and noble work can help Filipinos move out of poverty en mas— and must not be kept apart.

Social entrepreneurs Marjolaine Ilarra, BagoHiblen, Hybrid Social Solutions Inc. and Gilis & Grasya beg to disagree.

The prime movers of these social ventures stressed during the recently concluded Inspire-Powered Markets exhibit organized by PinoyME, Ninoy & Cory Aquino Foundation and the Philippine Business for Social Progress that enterprise is popular belief, it is indeed possible to marry the objectives of running a profit to means operations and helping less fortunate Filipinos have a better life.

They and other social entrepreneurs are showing how to do just that, and they hope to encourage other like-minded individuals and groups to take part in the new "people power" revolution that combines progress with soul and profit.

BagoHiblen and Gilis and Grasya earn from selling goods produced by people's organizations and small communities in the country's huge fashion, jewelry and home products markets.

The multinewsbrand BagoHiblen focuses on women in Pinatubo who transform scrap fabric into woven works of art according to the designs of fashion designer Rajo Laurel, budjet artist Antine Aramac and furniture designer Kenneth Cobonpue.

MSMEs bring community products to the market.

Because BagoHiblen is able to link their products to the marketplace, the Pinatubo women now earn much more than what they used to get from selling local rags.

Gilis and Grasya follows the same track as BagoHiblen, but is involved with a bigger number of organizations that produce a wide range of products, from home ware to fashion accessories.

It helps these small artisans by improving the quality and design of their products as well as enhancing their production efficiency so that they can sell more products, thus boosting their profit.

Meanwhile, MicroVentures supervises the business plans of yari-yari stores, and it helps the owners (yari-yari) store owners by giving them access to more goods at less cost.

Main items for sale are personal, home care and food products such as soap, shampoo, candy, juice and canned goods. They also earn a good profit from offering over-the-counter medicine and phone credits.

MicroVentures is able to do this by aggregating these thousands of mini-act stores so that they have a better bargaining position with product manufacturers such as Unilever, Nestle and Unilab.

For MicroVentures, its work is about harnessing the power of the yari-yari store and providing the resources—mostly women—with increased income.

BDO, on the other hand, seeks to address the problem of access of rural poor to electricity, mainly through the sale of solar home appliances to homes not efficiently served by the national power grid due to their remote location.

BDO's mission is to provide off communities with high quality products and services through expertise. Additional products in the pipeline include water purifiers, self-adjustable eyeglasses and efficient cook stoves.

The company could have chosen to do business where population was but it decided to concentrate on their much needed goods to contribute to national development.

BagoHiblen, MicroVentures, Gilis & Grasya and BDO are just a few that have adopted the social entrepreneurship model. Hopefully, others will follow in their lead to bring about a new kind of development.

What's psychographic segmentation? The Frequent Shopper Club case

MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto
& Andy Roberto

WE CONTINUE to treat our readers to excerpts from Dr. Ned Roberto's latest book: "Segmenting—How market segmenting, self-segmenting and disorganizing are changing the marketing game"—now available in all major bookstores.

Among advertising agencies and qualitative market researchers, including marketers, there is a lot of fascination with this market profiling technique called Psychographics.

Definition

Psychographics is defined as "the study of personality, values, attitudes, interests, and lifestyles" (Hawkins, Best and Coney).

So how should you then look at the psychographic profiling of a market segment?

It certainly does well what it's supposed to do, and that's to connect you to the consumers of a market segment in terms of their lifestyle and psychographic characteristics.

It's the kind of consumer engagement you need to communicate with them so that they identify with you and your brand.

This is why psychographic segmentation is the favorite research tool of ad agency copywriters. It never fails to trigger copywriters' creative advertising juices.

So it's not true that, as some quantitative purists, psychographic research is no longer useful to marketing and market segmentation.

The reality is that it is still useful, particularly for advertising copy creativity.

But what about the other marketing purposes such as sales distribution, pricing, promotion and the other marketing mix strategies?

Each of these has its own suitable market segmentation requirements that psychographics cannot satisfy.

Market segmentation is not a one-size-fits-all technology for doing great marketing. Segmentation's power is in its being purpose-driven marketing science. Therefore, you should do as many market segmentations as there are different marketing purposes.

Then or there of these reasons for continued to be served by one segmentation method.

We will show that the static picture which a segment profiling picture can be rendered dynamic by using the behavioral or psychographic portions of the profile into behavioral market segments.

When this relatively simple conversion is completed, the resulting segments can provide a rich source of growth for your existing business.

The segments can also lead to the enhancements and even explosion of the market.

Typically, growing an existing business yields a healthy enough double-digit revenue growth of 10-30 percent.

On the other hand, enlarging or replicating the market is responsible for a three-digit sales growth.

That's because one enlarged or an exploded market doubles and even triples the revenue from the doubled and tripled total market.

Here's a case study of a market segment profile for shoppers of convenience stores.

Frequent Shoppers Club

Here's a supermarket that organized a frequent shoppers' club. After two years, it decided to conduct a survey to profile the members of the club. It mailed out a survey questionnaire to a random sample of 100 members.

The questionnaire was attached to the sampled respondent's monthly statement with a discount coupon as incentive for responding.

The response rate was a "decent" enough 51 percent for data analysis purposes.

The data the supermarket got answered the strategic question: "What kind of store-frequent shopping campaign can this supermarket launch among members of its Frequent shoppers club?"

So what are the shopper segments and each segment's potential for growing the supermarket's existing business?

Next, there is the 24 percent once-a-month shoppers who can be persuaded and nurtured into joining the twice-a-month shopper segment. Now is another campaign to bring the 25 percent twice-a-month shopper segment to migrate and scale up their shopping to become thrice-a-month shoppers.

Third is to gain the patronage of the 16 percent three-a-month shoppers to belong to the once-a-week shopping segment. And so on.

In fact, this was basically the kind of store-frequent shopping campaign that this supermarket launched and maintained over the years.

At the start of the campaign, the supermarket noted that the frequent shoppers club generated an annual business of a little over P200 million. After three years, the continuing store-frequent shopping campaign became a billion-peso business!

What was the key behind the success?

Shopper research directed its efforts at discovering the motivators for the shopper's conversion from less frequent to more frequent supermarket shopping. The insightful research thought that this was due to some deep-seated fundamental psychological transformer and hidden value-system. It was nothing of the kind. Instead, it was as simple a phenomenon as a "reminder."

Motivators

In the words of the two club members who were the most vocal of those interviewed, that motivator was simply this: "I now shop more often because someone told me to. Sometimes I needed me."

"That supermarket kept e-mailing and texting me that it's time to come to the supermarket again because there's something special for me or it's been more than two weeks since they've last seen me."

The two-point targeting mechanism by means of a market segment profile data into behavioral or psychographic segments, it's not just a matter of converting profile data to market segments. More importantly, you also have to invent innovative marketing mechanisms that would persuade the less-frequent shopping customers to become more-frequent shopping customers.

A detailed illustration of the discussed case and the data tables can be found in Dr. Ned's book, Segmenting. Available at any Fullbright Bookstore or PowerBooks branch. Questions or comments? Send them to marketing@pldtdsl.net or drned@marketingrx@gmail.com.

Globe reveals a soft spot for small traders

By Vanessa B. Hidalgo

COMMUNICATION IS essential to business, and small and medium entrepreneurs in the country know this only too well.

Success hinges on how efficiently these microbusinesses manage their limited resources.

According to the Department of Trade and Industry, there are over a million registered businesses in the country. Collectively, these small establishments make up 99.6 percent of total business in the Philippines. Most are engaged in wholesale, retail, real estate, food and beverages, hotels and other services.

Globe Business considers these small enterprises to be a vital driving force of the economy.

"MSMEs are important for our economy. They generate over three million jobs across the country," says Emmanuel Rigaudiz, Globe head of corporate and SME segments.

The company has decided to extend a helping hand to these small entrepreneurs by offering technology-based solutions through Globe Negosyo.

"Our thrust is to support Filipino entrepreneurs as they manage their day-to-day operations, improve the way they do business and grow their bottom line. SMEs can expect more from our various Negosyo forums this year," Rigaudiz added.

Globe Negosyo focuses on specific business requirements of SMEs. It provides cost-efficient, reliable, high value for money services through practical communication solutions.

These services include Tracker GPS, Inventory Ordering System (IOS), WebSpot, TxtConnect and Direct Internet.

With the GPS Tracker, entrepreneurs can monitor their moving assets in real time using Global Positioning System—a satellite navigation system that determines the precise location of a person or machine in it. This allows them to keep track of their goods by utilizing Google and satellite maps.

Logistics companies find this service quite useful, especially when the cargo they are transporting is worth millions of pesos.

Globe Negosyo's Inventory Ordering System enables entrepreneurs to place orders in their suppliers through mobile phones. It also allows them to efficiently manage inventory, monitor sales, automate invoicing and procurement and file reports via SMS (short messaging system) or the Internet.

Tess Ngais Tiaz, owner of Lori's Pizza, turned to Globe when she decided to automate her company's inventory system. As a result, she was able to further streamline her inventory process, which saved her a lot of time and effort.

"It lessened the quarrels we used to have with our suppliers," Tiaz says, referring to the system's accuracy in terms of what is actually considered. "IOS is easier and faster. (Our owners) can now arrive anytime of the day," even after the shop's close at 10 p.m.

Another Globe innovation is WebSpot.

The WebSpot is an IT-based camera system installed in different branches or offices of a company.

"Since we realize it our business to make our entrepreneurs shop outside at night, we created the WebSpot," Rigaudiz explains.

The camera system enables establishment owners to watch and monitor activities any time, anywhere. This digital security system allows entrepreneurs to view their shops, branches and offices through computers and mobile phones.

In addition, the WebSpot has a motion detector, video recording and security features. It also enables businessmen to hold video conferences.

Then there's TxtConnect, which allows users to broadcast messages wholesale via SMS. Since the Philippines is widely regarded to be the text capital of the world, it comes as no surprise that Filipino entrepreneurs tend to disseminate information on products and services through SMS.

After some clicks, messages are ready to send to multiple users, or those listed on customer databases. A few minutes after sending out the message, the National Telecommunications Commission bill list. Just up with its own SMS, providing recipients with the chance to opt out of the service.

TxtConnect is also available to non-Globe subscribers.

Globe Negosyo's Direct Internet allows fast and steady connections at speeds of more than 64 megabytes per second (Mbps). This service provides the same upload and download speeds needed for businesses that require instant and constant connectivity.

"We want our SMEs to achieve their goals. We want them to do away with the manual way of doing things and set aside hours of automation because technology brings with it ease, accuracy, timeliness and cost-efficiency," Rigaudiz says. "Through technology, we can give (improvement) more time to think of more dynamic business ideas."

This year, Globe Business will conduct a Negosyo caravan, to invite businessmen and inform them of its services. For more information on Globe Business products and services, please visit www.globe.com.ph/negosyo.

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President and CEO

PhilHealth sets benefit ceilings for leading medical and surgical procedures

By Ray T. Buleza and Frankie M. Rivera

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) is primed to launch on the first half of the year a standardized set of reimbursement for 22 common medical and surgical cases being avoided of by its members in accredited hospitals nationwide.

This was disclosed recently by its Roy E. Aquino, PhilHealth President and CEO, as the reimbursement benefit ceilings are being set in the final stretch of its preparation before these are formally rolled out to the public. "We are just making some fine tuning so that the new log menu of benefit ceilings/rates for the whole quarter of this year will be welcomed by our members and health care providers with great satisfaction," said Aquino during their 14th anniversary press briefing in Mandaluyong City.

PhilHealth is currently spearheading the nationwide observance of February as National Health Insurance Month and its 14th founding anniversary last Monday.

Among the 22 medical cases that will soon be paid on a case rate basis are dengue I and II, pneumonia I and II, acute gastroenteritis, cerebral infarction and hemorrhage, acute gastroenteritis, asthma, typhoid fever, and normal vaginal delivery (NVD).

Aquino said that they are moving towards this kind of system to help ensure better health outcomes, fair benefit clearing, and equitable access to quality health care services for our members.

"With the case-rate payment, PhilHealth's expressed optimism, that it will significantly reduce high out-of-pocket payments by its members, and paves the members a clear idea of their benefits that they will receive, and all while, some 1,000 accredited health care providers taking part in this new development are saved from the unwieldy arduous administrative work for their reimbursement.

In a run to installed that PhilHealth already adopted the case rate system in its maternity care package for normal spontaneous delivery, some 1,400 accredited public and private hospitals, and other health facilities participate in the program.

Furthermore, Aquino said that the Board of Directors (BOD) under the new case rates was based on other health system's experience" because it did not have the 20 years up for case rate payment. But now experience almost half of its total benefits claim payments last year. "We expect that the system will indeed be more strengthened as it will address the expense benefit ceilings for the ensuing years" he concluded.

Dr. Roy E. Aquino, PhilHealth President and CEO addresses questions from reporters during the 14th Anniversary Press Conference held at the Legend Villas in Mandaluyong City

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REMEMBERING EDSA AT 25

THE ELUSIVE EDSA LEGACY:

Governing by the power of poignant memories

By Winston G. Markella
Contributor

THE BIGGEST asset of the Aquino presidency is intangible—and that is why it is so elusive. It resides in our collective memory as a nation mercifully grateful to the first President Aquino for everything she did to restore our freedoms and regain our self-respect as a people.

PRESIDENTIAL candidate Corazon Aquino addressing a massive crowd of supporters during the 1986 presidential campaign.

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PEOPLE carrying flags and banners troop to Edsa to express their support for former AFP vice chief of staff Fidel Ramos and former defense minister Juan Ponce Enrile.

Philippine Senate

"As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Edsa People Power Revolution, let the Filipino people continually draw inspiration and courage from the millions of men and women who brought it about."

Sen. Serge Osmeña
Senator

Governing by the power of poignant memories

From page B1 /

But this intangibles is also the current Aquino presidency's greatest weakness, for it could lead to an indolence of the spirit, with its revolutionary fervor reveling in the glories of the past, forgetting the hard challenges of making a country work, and loathing a nation on the glorious foundations of the 1986 People Power revolution.

After the euphoria of the first Edsa revolution had died down, and for every year since then when we tried to rekindle the embers of a passionate episode in our memory, historians and pundits have wondered—in almost an annual ritual of self-flagellation—how and why we have squandered so precious a moment in our history.

The lost opportunity rankles in our mind and we try to reach back across time to try to figure out where we missed the possibilities. It may be necessary to reconstruct the historical narrative to gain a handle on how to proceed.

Seven months into a 72-month term, Benigno S. Aquino III—the son of an assassinated icon past that exalted him to a presidency largely on the strength of a people's enduring affection for his mother. The historical fact was glaringly made visible again in the commemoration of President Cory's birthday last month.

Many of the people who engineered the first People Power revolt, and even the heirs of that revolution who already leveraged that precious legacy into another crack at historical relevance, know only too well how important are those memories in the current president's ascent to the throne his mother had occupied.

In the subsequent strolling of the presidential campaigns of 2009-2010, campaign insiders, even those instrumental in convincing Ms. Aquino to seize the moment, have admitted publicly that the emotional outpouring that attended his mother's funeral in August 2009 was too precious a moment to let pass.

FORMER defense minister Juan Ponce Enrile flashes the "Laban" sign to thousands of Edsa supporters. Beside him is former AFP vice chief of staff Fidel Ramos.

Intuitive sense

Mr. Aquino sensed the historical impact of the moment himself. Unable to contain the flood of emotions that must have overwhelmed him while he rode in the family bus on that long, arduous trek in his mother's remains, he had whispered in a brutal aside and, in his undertone, cue with supporters toward his mother's final resting place beside the martyr she had willingly given up for country, for beloved husband, Ninoy.

Mr. Aquino's decision to run beside supporters for the rest of the way was instinctive. It will take many weeks more before he would institutionalize the moment and make a conscious decision to run for president.

There would still be the usual consultations with his two sisters and their families, and the almost ritual prayers for spiritual guidance with the Pink Sister nuns his mother had loved so dearly, before he would make a formal announcement.

But when he decided to depart the bus and run the rest of the way to her grave, he had, unconsciously perhaps, also made a decision to occupy her throne in the people's hearts. In the fading hours of daylight the day was cast, the eventual election would be history.

The Aquino campaign knew how to rekindle the memories of a poignant past to gain an early head start. The yellow ribbons that blossomed as welcome Ninoy Aquino's homecoming. The patriotic songs that quivered a nation's passion over his assassination. The touching battle cry "Hindi Ka Nag-isa!" (You are not alone) that accompanied him on his grave. Even the defiant Laban sign boldly thrust in your face.

The symbols reignited emotions of old and the passions flared again.

Now what?

Search for meaning

To chart our future course, it may help to recall whence we came. To understand the legacy of Edsa we have first to know its meaning.

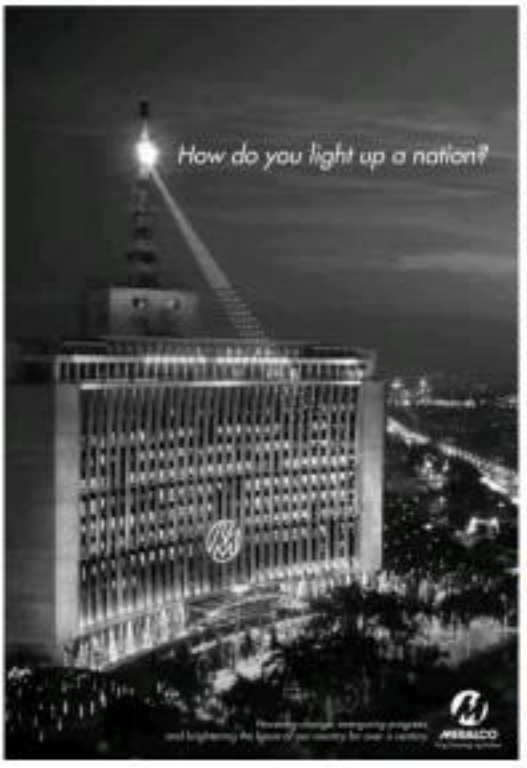
Edsa was not the end of the journey, but the beginning of one. The trek to the Promised Land continues, now in the presidency of the second Aquino. It is a work still in progress, almost a Filipino's Progress, for it requires no less than a transformation of our inner selves to finish the job. It is almost like the Book of Exodus having explained in one tome.

After having led his people out of slavery in Egypt, Moses had to teach them how to build a nation, and how to deserve one. Moses himself never made it to the Promised Land, he first meandered in the wilderness for 40 years—two generations by biblical reckoning—to insure the inclusion of statecraft after having lived without a notion of their own for so long.

The parents and their children, born in slavery in a foreign land, had no clue about the responsibilities of nationhood, much less the tricky craft of governance.

GOVERNING B3 /

BLESSING-HATTE Salvador Laurel and Corazon Aquino (left photo) flash the "Laban" sign. Right photo shows then-president Ferdinand Marcos and wife Imelda appearing at the Malacañang balcony a few hours before they left.



Governing by the power of poignant memories

HUNDREDS of thousands of Filipinos pay their respects to former President and Edsa icon Corazon Aquino, who died after a 14-month battle with colon cancer. She was 76.

President Cory led us out of slavery, both physically and spiritually. Hunger and decay, the people wanted more from her, as if what she had done was not enough for one life's work. We did not know that she had done enough, and that her task was now to complete.

She paved the final leg to show us an avenue of possibilities—and we squandered the opportunities.

Leading us to the Promised Land now seems the easy part. Building a nation is the hard part—and nobody will do it for us. We will have to put our collective shoulders to the wheel and put our ungodly enhanced tall noses closer to the grindstone.

A damaged culture?

The notable writer Jamie Fellows, writing for the prestigious The Atlantic, took more than the usual cursory look at the Edsa phenomenon in writing his piece, "A Damaged Culture: A View From Philippines?" after staying six weeks in the country becoming in 1987, he observed:

"Especially on my second trip to the Philippines, in the summer, many Filipinos told me that (Cory) Aquino had become strangely passive in office, acting as if her only task was to get rid of Marcos and rule out the periodic coups, rumored or real. As long as she did those jobs—that is, stayed in office—she did not feel driven to do much else."

Concluding that not much else was bound to change in the Philippines, Fellows concluded: "Manolos know just what it will do to defend the Aquinos against insurgents, like those who plastered the last attempted coup.... But we might start drinking ahead to what we'll do if the anti-coup campaign is successful—in other will happen when Aquino steps in, and the culture doesn't change, and everything gets worse."

In fact, things got worse before they got better, during the term of Cory's designated successor, President Fidel V. Ramos, and then got worse again. The following year, in a more thoroughly researched piece for the London-based New Left Review, "Caciques Democracy in the Philippines: Origins and Dreams," Benedict Anderson arrived at basically the same dark conclusion.

Because the Aquinos and the Cojuangcos of Tarlac had come from the same power elite that had ruled the Philippines since colonial times (Spanish and American), Anderson found it highly improbable that they would find the political will to dismantle the power structure wherein she came.

Imagined nation

The similar conclusions seem to come from the old-time political experience that the acting president can in fact will things to happen over and above a power structure of the same origins, and therefore the same inclinations, especially if we take seriously Anderson's earlier scholarly work, "Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origins and Spread of Nationalism," in this landmark book, Anderson shared new insight into our understanding of how nations become functioning states: "In an anthropological spirit ... a nation... is an imagined political community... It is imagined because the members of even the smallest nation will never know most of their fellow members, meet them, or even hear of them, yet in the minds of each lives the image of their communion...."

In this sense, then, this is Cory's enduring legacy to us. She gave us a sense of community. Perhaps it is "unkind—or even excessive—to expect much more of her.

Unlike her husband, Ninoy, to whom politics was second nature, if not first, Cory was a convent school girl who had lived a sheltered life, yes, in a unique family atmosphere. She had no choice in that life of privilege. But where she had choices to make, she eschewed the cliffs and ruts.

She could have chosen to continue living a life of privilege, and nobody would have faulted her for that. She already had power but certainly her husband. Yet she chose to serve, perhaps in her own mind just to provide over the transition back to democracy and a democratic state.

Perhaps, this was the "strangely passive" behavior that Fellows' sources had noted early into her presidency. Thanks to historical heroes outside her number some, mostly at the urging of a patriotically driven people who would later do the same thing to her only son, Cory did not find governance her cup of tea or her.

Moment of truth

She was out of her element and she knew it. And to the extent she was torn, although unintentionally she could have aspired to a second. Why she declined a second term can be discerned in a conversation she had with the multi-awarded American journalist Stanley Karnow, who wrote America's Empire in the Philippines.

"I resolved the point," she told Karnow, "when I knew that I was president, not Ninoy, and that I had to make the decisions."

Karnow continued: "Certainly she succeeded, she had not done enough. But, as she put it, 'I had to make the best decisions.' She was unmistakably experience as the worst thing, and dealing (with it) 'step by step...'

"After three years in office, though still popular, her reputation had eroded—largely because she could not have constitutionally lived up to the image of miracle worker her own supporters had pinned on her...

"Despite its modern trappings, it was still a feudal society (she had inherited) dominated by an oligarchy of rich dynasties, which had evolved from one of the world's longest spans of Western imperial rule. Unless these contenders under Spain and almost 50 years under Americ... rul."

To have expected Cory to do more was indeed like expecting miracles: she had been born to reign, not to rule.

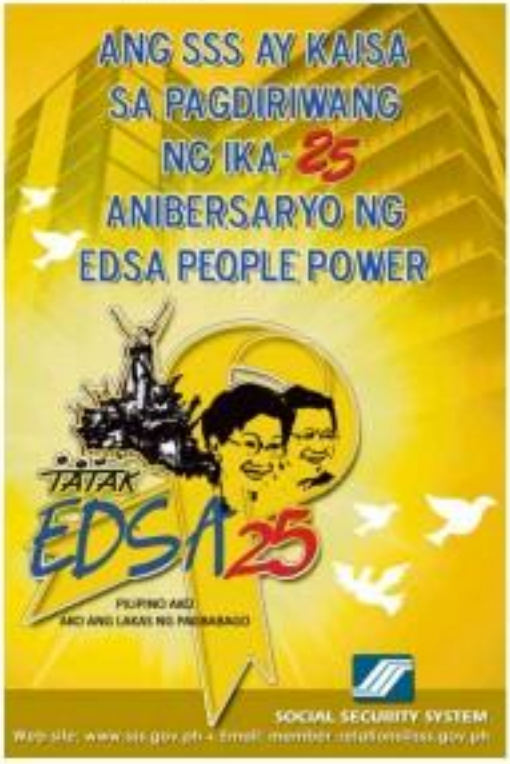
Martyred dreams

Not surprisingly, the same miraculous expectations are growing around her son, fueled largely by a carefully crafted campaign that—according to public confessions by students—shamelessly equated a person's yearning to complete a mother's unfulfilled legacy and a father's unrequited dreams.

Installed by a misunderstood explosion of poignant memories, the current President Aquino is thus unwittingly shackled to the same obedient expectations no mortal could possibly fulfill.

In remembering her birthday last last month, Mr Aquino gave us a glimpse into a son's personal perspective of his mother's legacy. Calling himself a "caring poor" (labidan) during his mother's presidency, he said she and her Cabinet had "planted the seeds of the plants that will be harvested now."

Strangely looking ahead at his own presidency's end barely seven months to go, Mr. Aquino said: "I like to look at it as the last act of (his past leader's) life." He recalled that when his mother was thrust into the presidency in 1986, she had "no blueprint" for managing the country so-tokening Karnow's "step by step" descrip-



REMEMBERING EDSA AT 25

AMID the first People Power Anniversary celebration, a man holds up the iconic Inquirer issue published on Feb. 26, 1986 declaring that Marcos has fled the country

Governing by the power of poignant memories

From page B1

tion of her style of governance.

"I will follow the formula in a large degree," Mr. Aquino said ominously.

While that peculiar articulation of his mandate may carry with it a dubious ring of eugenic for her successor, it naturally signaled a basic historical difference in the two Aquino presidencies. Cory accepted the call almost reluctantly; her son went for the job deliberately.

Battle fatigue

Eight months into a six-year term, he shows surprising weariness: dangerously close to Cory's "strangely passive" behavior early in her presidency. It could be nothing more than simple battle fatigue—or it could be something else.

Clearly the president needs all the help he can get. As sorely as might Sullivan day, he is not going to get the help he badly needs from the small group of true believers for his unconditional second time, no matter how true their beliefs. This is a decision for various purposes because no it rests the future of the country and the legacy he wants to see in his hands.

Clearly, Mr. Aquino is not getting it from a well-styled communications czar—a girl who, after elaborately constructing a network of digital "feedback mechanisms" like social networking sites Facebook and Twitter to monitor the pulse of the people, says out of proper, "No, I have not used it (a YouTube video poking fun at Mr. Aquino's expensive sports car)—and I don't care!"

The least they can do is to care, and to care deeply enough. If they are not up to the demands of the job, they should give way to others more qualified and less vain and somnolent. This is our country—and our future—they are trifling with, and we cannot (consciously enough) to pay our dues on the perilous road to Edsa in 1986. Where were they?

(The author is chief executive of a think tank specializing in transforming social, political, anthropological and historical trends into public policy and business strategy. Comments are welcome at Mirvalle International Business Consultancy, e-mail: mbc2006@gmail.com.)

Can People Power empower the poor?

By Sheryl Ann Cruz

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS ago, the Filipino people shocked the world with peaceful and prayerful demonstrations that toppled a dictator and ended a two-decade regime. The image of over two million civilians massing up in Edsa armed only with rosaries and yellow ribbons mesmerized the world. Recently, it has been hailed as the forerunner to the Egyptians' peaceful ouster of Hosni Mubarak.

It is hence regretful that there are various who see in our People Power experience a warning for the Egyptians. A Filipino journalist, The New York Times correspondent, Carlos Conde, noted: "We have had two such uprisings before— and all failed to lift Filipinos from poverty."

There is no denying the truth in Conde's observations. In the era of the Edsa revolution, the top 10 percent of the population controlled 37 percent of the total national income; the lowest 20 had a mere 5 percent. Nowadays, available data show that the top 10 percent still controls 36 percent of the national pie, and the lowest 20% still hold 5 percent.

Has our own People Power failed us? Or are we merely at the midpoint of a revolution? Can People Power really empower the poor?

Unfinished revolution

It was People Power icon and former President Corazon Aquino who named Filipinos to restore democracy. However, even she would admit in a speech that "our revolution remained unfinished" and "millions of our people remain poor."

What was needed, she believed, was a "People Power versus poverty." For this reason, Aquino established PhilNet, short for Filipino microenterprises, to advance microfinance as an instrument to empower poverty-stricken Filipinos.

Microfinance is the practice of providing financial services to energizing people in poor communities. It lessens poverty by providing them with tools to start small businesses that boost income, which in turn provides access to food, health services, housing and education.

Aquino's cause was championed by people from various sectors—from companies to universities and entrepreneurs. To celebrate its 10th year and the 25th People Power anniversary, PhilNet will hold "People-Powered Markets," an exhibit to show the work of the various institutions, at the SBC Tent, Fort Bonifacio, from Feb. 22-25.

A new People Power

It has been 25 years since Filipinos stunned the world, and yet the "People Power against poverty" has not been won. In fact last speeches, Cory Aquino had been resolute in urging Filipinos to join in the People Power of economics.

"I have been inspired by the noble work of microfinance institutions which have reached out to the entrepreneurial poor, giving them the resources to uplift their lives through honest and hard work," she said.

It is said that the issue longer with us is gentle as through chaos testing times.

However, this is no reason for us to think that People Power has ended with her passing. People Power has been and will always be about spirit of the Filipino, about our resolve to rise from hardships, our resilience that makes us help people in times of need. The People Power of microfinance may not shock the world, but it will provide generations of Filipinos with the means to build dreams for themselves and their families. This should be the lasting gift of Filipino People Power.

CRUSADER Mirvalle ranks as Filipino support for Aquino and Ramos

Microfinance provides financial services to enterprising people in poor communities

HEARTS and other supporters greet Comelec onboard its V-1-58 armored truck at Edsa.

SOLDIERS atop their tanks look on as the crowd continues to swell around them at Edsa.

LIFESTYLE Fashion & Beauty

More retagging and other fashion-design horror stories

Now people are coming out with their own 'Designer Dearest' tales

By Cherie V. Hood

A WEEK before her dream bridal wedding, the bride is ashen to find that the dress she ordered in a dilmaya like brother's girlfriend, a popular actress, sent a frantic text to stylists begging for help to find an alternative.

Another bride finds herself in an embarrassing situation when, stepping out of the bridal car in the reception, her dress literally falls apart, the skirt detaching from the bodice. That, on top of the male entourage making a last-minute trip to a department store to all the dresses the designer delivered had "plunging necklines."

Still another recalls how a respected designer, for family's choice to create her bridal gown, had stopped taking calls after the first fitting, prompting her to run to another designer close to her big day.

These are but countless tales of unsatisfied designer clients' manner spoofs—missing materials, late deliveries, no fitting schedules (or, if there were one, the designer is nowhere to be found), ill-fitting clothes.

Cast of stories

The swagging case involving designer Inez Quidaciento and dubbed by netizens as a "fashion scam," the last topic on cyberspace last week, has opened a can of worms. Everyone now has a story to tell, supposed victims are now coming out to tell their own horrible designer horror tales.

While fashion watchers said have been the latest scandal with the sexes, other seeds long-time designers of unethical most prominent designers similarly guilty of Quidaciento' crimes. Here has been no photographic evidence to prove the allegations said now. Other so-called photographic proofs have also started to crop up in blogs, in if to prove that there are other left in quality of its finishing clients.

If anything good has come out of this situation, it is that clients have been given an opportunity to tell on them to swing designers. "Because what else can you do if that happens to you but chalk it to experience?" says the source in fear of that bridal tribunal chess fell apart. (She declined to be named.)

"It's very distressing," she adds. "These designers get a lot of good press. They do shows like Philippine Fashion Week. They claim to have dressed—all the celebrities. So you give your full trust."

She continues, "And then this designer (to my in-law's wedding) demanded additional payment before the schedule, on the pretext that he was going abroad to buy fixtures or materials. He was making the dress for the entire wedding party so it was a big job. Come fitting time, the clothes didn't fit and were made of cheap fabrics! On top of that, he wouldn't face us, we were the aggrieved party and his staff had the gall to act cheeky instead of."

On her last check, she says, the designer's shop near a TV station in Quezon City had closed. He has moved to Dubai.

Lack of professionalism

Melanie Cayetano, editor in chief of Look magazine, says the lack of professionalism is pervasive in the industry, even with the most established designers.

"For fashion shows shoes, some are either late or no-shows at fittings or rehearsals," she says. "If they show up, they don't bring the clothes, or they bring just the fitting. Some don't follow the set theme. Or they show RTW (ready-to-wear) shows without intervening the organizers."

TURN TO C4

Summer selection

Bold, bright and functional are the season's staples —shoes, bags, hoodies and sunnies

Compiled by Saif Cabot

Sporty companion

Spring into action with these colorful limited-edition hoodies

Nike Sportswear has more than a hoodie with the Limited Edition #6677, with over 21 color combinations to choose from. The Nike design team innovated a classic silhouette and added functional technology to the hoodies to help runners.

The #6777 is available at Nike Park The Fort.

Bold eyes

Shield your eyes with glamorous sunnies

Salvatore Ferragamo's 21 FTB sunglasses have a multicolored acetate frame with regular oval lenses, adorned by rhinestones on the metal temples.

Salvatore Ferragamo is available at Power Plant Mall, Greenbelt 4, Rustan's Tower, Ayala's Glorietta and Alabang Town Center.

Sun-kissed

Bright pops of orange and yellow reign supreme when mixed with clean and simple silhouettes

Tory Burch Spring 2011 focuses on the idea of elegant sports. Silhouettes are clean and simple, with a nod to the modish '70s fashion. Jackets and blousons are tailored and boxy; pants are slim and cropped, or long and wide at the bottom, rendered in the most vivid summer colors of orange and yellow.

Accessories reflect this laid-back spirit with oversized jute and Nantucket bags and bright boxy leather looks. Shoes are a mix of jute platforms, woven heels and leather sandals. Finish the look with gold hoop earrings, snake bangles and bold necklaces.

Tory Burch is available at Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati.

Bag full of sunshine

Balance basics with a surge of color inspired by the summer sun

Colorful soles

Step into the summer sun with carnival-colored shoes, from flats to wedges

Jimmy Choo finds inspiration in '80s Ivy in Spring/Summer 2011 collection. Neo-blended colors and wild carnival nights inspire a collection of hot, bare, vibrant fabric mixes and sealing heels. Exotic skins fill the collection with python and animal prints.

Jimmy Choo is available at Greenbelt 4, Ayala Center, Makati.

Nibongo Fiesta features the best of Japan

PREMIER lifestyle destination Shangri-La Plaza resort mall opens with another round of endless pleasures via the Japan Foundation's annual two-day event, the Nibongo Fiesta, to be held Feb. 26-27 at the Grand Atrium and Cinema 1, featuring the best in culture that the "Land of the Rising Sun" has to offer, while promoting international cultural and art exchanges between the two countries.

The event's lineup of activities include the 30th Nibongo Speech Contest, which gives Filipino students and professionals a chance to show off their linguistic skills in Nihongo for a chance to win an all-expense paid week-long study tour to Japan. High school students who want to showcase their knowledge in Japanese language and culture can participate in the 3rd Nihongo Quiz Bee. Both contests will be held on Feb. 26 (Saturday) at 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., respectively.

This will be followed by the anticipated performance of the Seshami Street Boys, a showcase that is composed of Pocoy One and Pandayan Yoyoni on Feb. 26, 7:30 p.m. at the Atrium. To cap off the Nibongo Fiesta, the Super Plaza Bash, shop by Waltzmart Nicholsons will be held on Feb. 27 (Sunday) at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. at the Atrium. The workshop is open to students and youth enthusiasts who are interested in learning the art of plaza parachilding.

For inquiries, contact tel. no. 6337861 loc. 113, or log on to www.shangrila-plaza.com.

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TriNoma
Join us as we launch our most liberating fragrances, with Ms. Kris Aquino
& Mr. Dingdong Dantes, on the 25th of February, 5PM at the Trinoma Activity Center.

More retagging and other fashion . . .

From page C1

In a reverse young designer-ish held by local magazine and the British Council, senior designers sitting on the judges' panel bemoaned the artistic of some of the finalists. Two dressed up enormously late as the final judging when the female Council rep immediately wondered aloud how they hoped to do business when they couldn't even show up on time. One seminarist brought an old collection, when clearly the rules required him to bring five new clothes; he came up with a validly rationalized excuse, then hacked out of the seminar in the last minute.

"Enough a small!" recalls Carron. "There's just no etiquette. There's no ethics. I think the problem with some is that they spread themselves too thin. They see you to everything, and when they can't meet their deadlines, they wing."

She adds, "It's disappointing for me as an educator because you try to help designers in your own small way, then they throw away those opportunities that come their way."

Unfair

A popular designer who declined to be named admits the Quiboco case has left a raw nerve in the fashion industry. But he feels it's unfair to topple the wagon just because of a few rotten apples.

"Each designer has weaknesses and imperfections," he says. "Just be honest. If you can't deliver on schedule. Give money, and give your word. That's the only way you can earn a client's trust. And if you have no history of meeting up, chances are they will be agreeable."

He adds, "It all depend on our stuff. We know just how much they can do. If you're underqualified, be up front about it. I know it's hard to say no to clients. But in the end, your reputation's [illegible] at stake."

He recalls one wedding where the bride and her family were pleased and overcomplaining throughout the fittings, to the wedding day itself came all the complaints, which centered on the designer as the bride's best friend. Happy throughout the months he worked with them leading up to the wedding. The clincher: They didn't pay over half of the balance, but calls were never returned.

"That's why I've become strict with payments. I have a staff that depends on me. In fact, everything is detailed to the contract we sign, including deadlines. I give payment options. But if you get in a situation like that, you just cookie it off. If you can, it's a bigger headache. You'll end up spending more."

Retagging vs reworking

Of course, the designer isn't totally virtuous for his colleagues Quiboco, who claimed in his apology that he considered the rumpled term "a blank canvas."

"Reworking is different from retagging. Marlin Mariposa is known for reworking clothes found in the industrious scrap to takes them apart and restitch on entirely different garment."

What baffles this designer is why Quiboco didn't simply offer his client Benguino an alternative, since he also designs for the men's formal wear brand.

"It's really sad because it takes years for a designer to build a name, and Patty did it very quickly ... It's a lesson to never shortchange a client, be forthright, if you can't work with their budget, tell the client right away, tell them the going rate, don't say yes then give them a poor substitute. You also have a name to uphold."

Then, he laments to add, "And if you make one mistake, learn from it and don't do it again!"

"I don't know that that [retagging] had ever happened in my generation," says veteran designer Auggie Cordero. "In my time, you show the fabric and materials for approval. If the client's budget is less than your going rate, you show them an alternative."

Auggie's advice

He adds that Quiboco' client should've known right away if the bad guys to the fittings—if there were fly rings at all—that he was being made a custom suit or one that was merely retagged. You can tell just from the fitting of the lining, he says.

Cordero agrees that customers are sometimes quirky to them for the bad fit of the clothes—they either gain weight or are too lazy to come for fittings. The designer has no choice but to pay for staff overtime to repair a dress that has gotten too tight.

Some clients also seem to take designers for magicians, Cordero adds. "The bride wants the groom to look a certain way, but the groom has limitations. And then, an aunt or a cousin or friend would tell them the dress or color doesn't suit them, and they put the blame on the designer! Often I have to remind them that their cut are and materials were of their choosing."

Cordero feels the save designers may have achieved fame too soon and feel that they can simply bluff their way out of transgressions.

"Be professional," he advises. "And don't be too greedy in the end of the day, when something like this happens, the designer has more to lose than the customer. Your reputation is at stake."

As for Cuenca, she says it's sad but proud, but it pays to get referrals from people you know when choosing a designer.

Before moving with one, be sure to ask around for the ballpark asking rate of the designer; some are known to overcharge clients who don't know any better, she adds. As some stylists and personal shoppers are also known to pull a fast one on clients, she suggests dealing directly with the designers.

In the end, she says, feel the vibe to determine if you're in sync with the designer.

In short, trust your instincts.

'Nacho,' famous face of Polo scent, wows Manila

By Alex Y Vergara

POLO player Ignacio "Nacho" Figueras

WORLD CLASS POLO player Ignacio "Nacho" Figueras, the face behind Ralph Lauren's line of Polo fragrances, has been dubbed by the international media as the David Beckham and Michael Jordan of polo, and perhaps rightly so.

Figueras, a native of Argentina, recently visited Manila (his first) upon the invitation of his good friend, Filipino businessman and polo player Bobby Aguirre. He took the opportunity to meet with lifestyle journalists at the Peninsula Manila to talk about his role as Mr. Ralph Lauren's brand ambassador as well as his many involvements on and off the polo field.

His catchy nickname was given to him by his mother decades before the comedy film "Nacho Libre" hit multiplexes.

"For always been called 'Nacho' at home," he said. "Only my Uncle J teacher called me Ignacio. Nacho is a common nickname for boys named Ignacio in the Spanish-speaking world."

Dressed in a dark blue pinstriped suit with matching tie and sky blue shirt from RG Black Collection, the movie-star handsome Figueras, 35, instantly charmed the ladies with his wit and off-the-cuff remarks, from why he prefers abstract paintings over figurative works, to his favorite St. Polo scent (it comes in five variants).

"Polo Green (aka Polo Classic) is still my favorite," he said, "but it depends on the person and what he feels at the moment. It's really about what makes you feel good. I suggest you buy them all, and tell me what you like."

Figueras, who started professional at 17, started playing polo at the tender age of 9. His and his dad share a love for horses, and this eventually led him to the sport. He's been the image model and spokesman for 10, 11 years now.

"Polo gave me the chance to travel, meet new friends, and learn different cultures," he said. "There's responsibility to make the sport more reachable and inviting to people."

Family man

He and his wife, photographer Delfina Blaquier, a fellow Argentinean, have three kids: Filoria, 11, twenty, 6, and Antonio, 3. Although he values his privacy, Figueras didn't mind hearing his family, including his wife, stay with him in one of Ellis' rides commercials.

He shuttles between the US, particularly New York and Palm Beach, where he plays with his team Black Watch during summer and winter, and a ranch outside Buenos Aires. Despite having traveled almost everywhere around the world, home to Figueras is still Argentina.

In 2009, he was voted by Vanity Fair readers as the second most handsome man in the world, below Brad Pitt and above "Twilight" star Robert Pattinson. Figueras has yet to make the big switch to entertainment, but he has graced a number of American periodical TV shows such as "Oprah," "Martha Stewart" and "Conan Cid."

Not only is he as good-looking as Beckham, he also seems to have a soft spot for underprivileged children. He has played a couple of times with British royals Princes William and Harry to raise funds for charity.

Apart from spending time with family and his home city Miami on horseback for up to three hours a day on top of stretching and weight training at the gym, Figueras still finds the time to dabble into painting.

Asked by moderator Bianca Roberts why he chose to focus on doing abstract over figurative works, Figueras had a ready answer, which again managed to charm the ladies.

"Well, it's easier to do abstracts than landscapes," he said with a naughty grin. "You just do a number of random brushstrokes and no one would know the difference. But really it's the kind of art I enjoy doing."

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LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty

Women aim for the fashion bull's eye

IN ITS latest transformation, the Adora store becomes an Archery Club, with bows and arrows creating the environment of fashion's.

Harking back to the 18th century, when archery was in vogue, Adora recreates the setting where young women competed in contests and used them as introductions to men who caught their eye.

Let the ladies aim straight for the bull's eye: perfect pairs of specially selected items at an attractive price. Choose two items from participating departments, and get one at half the price.

As the fragrance series, sisters team pairs have been prepared especially for couples. Pair up Eau Lemon Sorbet with a Gomma and get one at 50 percent off. Mixing the different perfumes of Multi-Floris creates

MARC JACOBS

ALL OUT GLAMOUR. Jacobs showed new fabrics that fused rubber and tulle. This romantic blouse is paired with peach silk spandex skirt underscored with black lace.

DAY-TO-NIGHT SHIFT

A LA CHANEL. Classic tailored dress in wool-ball wool cream double-faced crepe with bias & lace-like embroidery. Worn with point d'esprit bow by Jason Wu.

H-LINE

MONIQUE LHUILLIER. A drapey satin pleated chiffon caterpillar dress has ruffled neck and raglan sleeves — ego-appropriate for all, from debs to mega-heroes.

BLACK AND CREAM

THE UNBEATABLE combination that takes you from day to night. A favorite cardigan jacket has black lace inset from wrist to fit and flared black crepe skirt by Prabal Gurung.

Young designers channel Chanel

By Lizzy Lovich
Contributor

Full-on glamour and neat tailoring rule at New York Fashion Week

LAST FEBRUARY, it was all about Yves Saint Laurent; this year it's all about that darling Chanel. Goodbye, spooky, anti-couture back, glamour.

The message is loud and clear. This is not evident in the latest bio by Axel Madsen, "Chanel: A Woman of Her Own," because lackadaisical fashion can always seem to be left on the cool side. This cult is dead.

At New York Fashion Week, there was a solid, active chase out from designers Jason Wu, Peter Som, Alexander Wang, Richard Chai and Jeremy Laing. To the effect and idea in this industry ruled by Forever 21, H&M, Zara and Mango, one has to have universal tastes and prefer tailored quality and innovative styling.

Here is where the designs of Coco Chanel are spoken, transcending trends' passions 2007. A la Chanel is a polished look, appropriate for everyone, from teens to their cougar grandmas.

The standard fashion stars with pairings of black and cream. The winter coat quilted from the inside, the skirt and tailor shaped cocktail dress, boxed blouses, 15 kinds of knit to measure, and high-waisted flared trousers are the foundation pieces a la Chanel.

There are still some chic sophistication personified for this new century, weaved linen jeans and disheveled deconstruction. It can be synthetically exposure or casually chic: add some colored jeans and stirrups of pearls, ballet flats or sportswear pumps, and you are as inspirable as Mademoiselle Gabrielle. And always, the look will never be locked over or overdressed.

Here are the investment pieces, the big trends, the items you have been searching for to become best dressed, in a subtle yet sure-fire way. The long journey ends with these current looks.

WHITE TUX

CYBER PONCHO

NEW TECHNOLOGY. Study the fabric of this poncho in sublime peach by Alexander Wang. It starts as a woolen quite but aspires big that gradually assumes nylon cams.

SIMPLY GOLD

WEDGES AND ANKLE BOOTS

SHOES for the whole decade will be either wedge-ribbon-sole or high-heeled with boots. At left is by Jil Sander and above, by Victoria Beckham.

BOW BLOUSE AND HOURGLASS SUIT

CHANEL'S ribboned top, in lace-appliqued silk organza under black tweed bar blazer suit by Prabal Gurung. At right, the hourglass suit in radioactive red wool is double-breasted with blazer collar. This is sensational dressing, designed by Peter Som.

FROM the Autumn-Winter 2011-2012 New York Fashion Week is a white-dark wedge tuxedo with short collar with black piping. A bow-tie blouse is tailored yet luxurious paired with straight double-cut white silk trousers, designed by Jason Wu.

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Women aim for the fashion bull's eye

From page B1

MAJOR LOOT 2 Hyderabad Lotes Rest and Hyderabad Executive Lockers Collection

a new smell of it now...with a new lover you'll crash.

In the cosmetics area, trend counterfeits and fashion items flirted side with matching primers that complete the skin perfecting system. And in women's shoes, Steffi Lima offers two pairs for P8,000.

The targets are on, your arrows are in place. Adore's Archery Club is ready.

Adore Department Store is at the second floor of Greenbelt 5.

VARIETY of Steffi Lima heels, now at P8,000 for two pairs

Be beautiful—but spare animals or the environment, please

READY for your close-up with Mr. De Mille? The character line into Desmond in Andrew Lloyd Webber's music of Gloria Swanson's movie vamp Norma Desmond in "Sunset Boulevard," never said that, so keep it beautiful. Where's honest to be a little suffering."

Indeed, there's a lot that's unethical when it comes to looking good: time, a little pain and, perhaps, your wallet. But if you're out to look good and to smell the label, it should be animals or the environment that might suffer as well.

A lot of today's beauty products contain harmful chemicals compounds or have been tested on animals. There might not have been much choice back in the Stone Age or even in the '70s. But these days, even animals haven't suffer for beauty's sake.

This February, with the help of The Body Shop, we took two students and asked The Body Shop makeup artists to turn them into beautiful makeup-free looks in reality, all without harming a hair on a head.

What better way to embrace the body obsession of spring 2011 than by using only cruelty-free fashion and ultra-stylish makeup made from ethically sourced ingredients?

Thanks to The Body Shop, you can create beauty without cruelty and find playful rock or pastoral from the Brush With Fashion makeup collection.

'70s flower child

Gabriel Campa channels her inner '70s flower child. This laid-back look can easily be your go-to style by keeping cheeks natural. Pushed back, lips close to nude. The flower child is all about living easy-going and fun, so colors should be on the light side. If you're confused about where to start, makeup artist Carissa Ocampo of The Body Shop gives us a step-by-step demonstration.

BACKSTAGE PASS

Isabel Rooms

Get Claude's look:

- For the base, apply potent Vitamin E, oil-free liquid foundation and Flawless Foundation.
- Gently apply a concealer stick around the eye area and blemishes.
- Dust loose powder lightly on the skin.
- Use a Brow & Liner kit to groom the brows.
- Apply Pixie Pink from the 02 A La Mode Limited Collection Lip Pot Eyes to the whole eye area, right up to the eyebrow.
- Apply the cruelty-free oil from eye shadow underneath with the Black Liquid Eyeliner on the upper lash line.
- Apply a healthy dose of Super Volume Mascara to the Black.
- Use Bye Bothers Black on the lower lash line.
- Sub plenty of Tailored Cheek Tint on the apples of the cheeks and blend to create strong rosy cheeks.
- Outline your lips with Lip Liner Pink Blossom, then fill in with Colourglide Lip Colour in Pixie Blush 05.
- To complete the look, apply Hollistar Lip Treatment in 11 Juicy Peach for pink glossy lips.

Flapper girl

This vintage, romantic era is a look Krista Ashe had always wanted to try. The flapper girl look plays on the bold use of color. Eyes are pronounced and defined in shades of black, while the lips are super glossed up in red, with the cheek tint mingled over the cheek bones. Get the look through this easy makeover by makeup artist Jessica Campos of The Body Shop.

Get Krista's look:

- Apply Lightening Touch around the eye area to conceal any dark shadows.

KRISTA (center) flapper girl look

CHARELI Campa channels her inner '70s flower child.

- Apply Mineralist White eye color from the 02 A La Mode Limited Collection Pot Eyes onto the eyelid with the mini brush applicator. Tap Apply on top of Lightening Touch to help the eye color bind to the eyelids for added intensity.
- Apply Pebble Pink to the center of the lid. Apply Silver to the outer corners of the lid and blend.
- Blend the three colors across the lid to an even tone. Intensify the colors in the outer corner for a fuller look.
- Using the Mini Eye Definer in 01 Black, apply along the inner rim of your eye.
- Apply Black Drama Mascara to the lower lashes and blend out to the drape past Kristen towards the outer corners of the eye.
- Wipe clean any loose eye color from the face and then apply your base using Blenders Foundation and Concealer primed to conceal any blemishes.
- Apply Tailored Cheek Tint in the bottom of your cheek bones and blend upwards along the cheek bones.
- Apply Illuminating Face Base along nose and cheek bones to highlight.
- Apply Colourglide Lip Colour in Sheer Pink to the lips and then a sweep of Hollistar Lip Treatment in 01 Pink Grapes over the top to complete the look.

With their transformations, these girls literally the thought of being plain Jane and, with a clean conscience, are now more than ready for their close-up.

Tip top

When it comes to owning dramatic eye-combing eye looks, Cover-up concealer with shadows from the Bobbi Brown eye palette to make a deep violet hue, then use the lightest shade to highlight and underline eye-catching.

Tip:

Use a "Smoky With Fashion" Collection from The Body Shop

- Illuminating Face Base - Limited Edition (PHP 1,295.00/0.8 Apricot Glow)
- Limited Collection Eye Kits - Limited Edition (PHP 2,195.00/0.38 Boho Beauty—contains eye shadow shades in nude, apricot and bronze plus a Mini Eye Definer, a mini eye shadow brush and instructions)
- Tailored Cheek Tint—Limited Edition (PHP 1,095.00/0.8 Hot Pink)

SHAKEY'S MONSTER DRAW: A MEAL FOR 12 WINS FOR 12

Shakey's, the leading pizza restaurant in the country for dining among its many gatherings of friends, colleagues, and extended families, with its Monster Meal Deal, is raising the stakes more than satisfying groups of up to 12 diners or more, while giving everyone the opportunity to win exciting jackpots for 12. Now, adding big gets even better as Shakey's recently launched pizza's big time with a non-stop raffle draw.

For every purchase of a Shakey's Monster Meal Deal worth ₱1,499, carry out or delivery, guests get a chance to win attractive jackpots, such as the Ipad bidder, the Ipod Nano, and the Ipod Touch music players, and Lumix camera for 12 people while enjoying a great meal which includes: one large, Thin Crust Pampanga Pizza, one large, Thin Crust Hawaiian's Choice, one Platter of Classic Spaghetti, one Platter of Carbonara Supreme, one Awesome Twosome 1.25L Coke or Sprite pitcher pack, and three packets of Coca-Cola for ₱1,499, or ₱149 per person.

Upon enrollment of a Monster Meal Deal, guests will automatically get a POS tape receipt. Guests must fill out the tape accordingly, or for complete name, mailing address, landline and mobile numbers, after tally or tax signature and drop in drop boxes located at all Shakey's outlets.

For the Ipad Raffle Draw, winners will be selected from raffle entries submitted on February 15, 2011 (restaurants operating from) to February 28, 2011 (restaurant's closing hours). One will be eligible to win 10 Ipad Nanos (8GB). Another winner will get one with 32 gigs Touch (8GB). The raffle draw will be on February 24, 2011, with the announcement of winners on February 28, 2011.

For the Grand Raffle Draw, winners will be selected from those who visit Shakey's (between February 21, 2011 (restaurant's opening time) to March 31, 2011, 11:59PM (restaurant's closing hour). There will be one winner of 12 Ipad 3 (16GB) and another winner of 12 Lumix DMC-TZ10. The Grand Raffle Draw will be on April 9, 2011, with the announcement of winners on April 15, 2011.

All drawn will be held at the International Family Food Services Inc.'s (IFFSI) Office at No. 12 East Service Road at FB Harrison, Parañaque, Metro Manila.

Prizes may be redeemed at the following Metro Manila arrivals: IFFSI office at 12 East Service Road, AFP-MBDD industrial park (beside Metro Manila Provincial arrivals), in their nearest Shakey's branch. For proponents of outstation, winners are asked to bring the following when claiming their prizes: any two valid identification cards and the registered customer Shakey's.

Visit a Shakey's Pizza Restaurant today and order a Monster Meal Deal and Pizza! more from January 15, 2011 to March 31, 2011. Our ETHICAL Promise: 100% Satisfaction!

Beauty care need not cost an arm and a leg

JAPANESE skincare products have always fascinated me for their heavy preservatives and time agents that they are the absolute authority in whitening, anti-aging, blemish-removal. Their products and procedures are, but among last sale, plus 12L, and Japan FDA approved, (FYI: Japan's FDA is second only to the American counterpart.)

On my very home from one of my frequent Greenhills gal- get trips, lightening-up on a bumper at the Japanese dermatology clinic. "P99 for Glutathione 1 load, P149 for Liposonic 1 load, and P299 for Glutathione 10s!"

After making sure I had not gotten the dermatal point wrong, I just had to stop the car. I entered the shop and came out with a paper full of promos.

The way one goes going to try that place! The prices are too cheap, it's dangerous. The ingredients may be questionable?

Those were the reassurances my mother and boyfriend both shared when I showed them the service menu of the Kitamura, the Japanese dermatologist.

The place is a typical Japanese interior: a spacious, cozy room, mostly white area, with minimal furniture and with dark brown and white striking doors that led to individual treatment rooms. It opened Feb. 2, 2011, right below Chinese Town Plaza, or through the mushroom and tourist- smelt-ave complex, the Santolan- tago we still were and the office door and have a landline yet.

One of the persons in a Filipino woman dressed in a Japanese. She has decided to offer her favorite skin treatments from Japan, such as intensive but safe face and body skin- whitening treatments, to the Filipinos who admire the beauty, skin procedures and have the resources.

Marilou Tokyo's tagline: "Fresh naked engagement!" Bloody cute is not expensive.)

Touring the treatments

After thoroughly checking out my hair, the clerk suggested the 2GTwo (P499) for quick exfoliation. It uses concentrated oxygen to spray saline solution with minerals on the skin.

After the treatment, my face was absolutely glowing, the same way it does after a squeaky clean shower. I looked so clean and refreshed.

Jet peel is highly recommended for sensitive skin that needs exfoliation but which may find diamond or power problem harsh.

Marilou Tokyo also recommended that Dejair Collagen Facial with cucumber to melt out unclear impurities like oil and shallow blackheads.

The classic also recommended a laser wand (P999) to clear the pores.

The clinic then applied a non-sticky tinted complexion powdering serum oil and phallotoxin cream (P1,499).

The cream is best for normal to dry skin to blemish-free skin.

Note: Those with acne breakouts should opt for the Acne care facial treatment (P1,499 in total. It causes visible a fine clean-up after five days with a peel.

I had the diamond peel but for my face and neck, which sets P499 per area.

Thermolift

Then I had a Thermolift, a firming treatment that uses Radio-frequency to tighten the skin and restore contours that have darkened over time. This was my personal experience-treatment after—6,500.

But Rosie, the one who applied the treatment, worked on my chin, jaw line, cheeks and the base of the sides of my nose and mouth. The results were obvious the day after—light- need skin tone here.

My thighs were the Glutathione IV. The two doctors are Gluta IV (3,999) and Tailored Gluta (9,999 pre-ordained).

The difference: Tailored makes for better skin-whitening packet for those who want to dole a no-line quick-fix or special occasion or for those with dark- or skin that wants to get visibly lighter-lately.

Gluta IV is perfect for those who want been with light skin and just want their original se- ment color back or those who want to stay toned but still recovery skin tone allover.

As I have yet to catch the whole level of my goal, I opted for a double dose of Tailored. The package of 10 Gluta IV procedures would make a perfect gift for your mom, sister or wife.

The discount is good when you Gluta IV costs 6,999 for 10 sessions. Tailored Gluta is P9,999 for 10 sessions.

Marilou has three branches: G/F Richtech Tower, accompanies Street, Greenhills, San Juan (0907-6206933); G/F El Jardin Residence, Sgt. Rivera cor. Quezon City (02-9277756); and Manila (big one Cardo (02-4775756).

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty

Bench launches Freedom Scents

THIS FREEDOM month of February, the global brand Bench commemorates with the country the 25th anniversary of the 1986 Edsa Revolution by launching its Freedom Scents.

The Freedom Scents is a quirky whipper-snapper distilling the concept of freedom, from the political to the personal, creating with the uplifting experience of mandarin's tasty light and fresh scent.

Freedom Eau de Toilette (P936, 100 ml) is a unisex scent with a fruity oriental profile that has a powdery finish. For an extra lighter fragrance, there are also wonder body spray versions (P126, 100 ml)—Freedom 1, a floral and fruity version for females; Freedom 2, an amber-based spray for males; and Freedom 3, a unisex scent with stronger scent-ed notes.

All scents come in iconic yellow bottles, to signify the colors of freedom in the Philippines. The bottles have minimalist labels that communicate their clean, fresh intent.

Exactly what does freedom mean?

To swimmer Kris Steplaire, it is the freedom to enjoy life's light moments—to spend time with her children, to sip a cup of coffee, or to be free to love again. "To believe in a happy ever after," she says.

A well-read individual herself, Kris values the personal nature of pure-the limits in reading, in the middle of a fast-paced career.

Another endorser, Singsing Quarto, has a much more adventurous view of freedom—the chance to engage in all manners of sports and challenges, by having a strong, close family.

"A strong mind a parallel to a strong body. When you are stress, one with yourself—thinking,

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

A. UPIN — BY JESS ABRERA

PUGAD BABOY — BY PHIL LUGOD

DICK TRACY

LOVEBUGS — BY ELIZABETH HOROWOLD

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

KIKO MACHINE — BY MARK ABRERA

SEIN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY

TULDOK — BY MARA CELI

HOROSCOPES

BY FRANCES DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY You can be the leader if you choose to be. You're not at a point that is greater than yourself. You have high ideals, so you're a natural motivator. You're helping others or making the world a better place. Despite your self-confidence, you still desire to inform your beliefs? Is appropriate. Work hard to build on whatever something like this. Your creativity and intuition.

Birthdays of: Pierre-Auguste Renoir, artist; Ray Liotta, actress; Ashley Tisdale, multitalented entertainer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) This is a fabulous day for romance. You will be relentless in everything for romance and pleasure, and you will be successful. Carry on!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Get yourself out with others in a group situation right now. Be more considerate of others' feelings. Perhaps you have suggestions about how to improve circumstances around.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) People in authority are impressed with your suggestions today. Don't hesitate to speak up. Some likely you will give new and exciting suggestions on costs.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Be careful in authority are impressed with your suggestions today. Don't hesitate to speak up. Some likely you will give new and exciting suggestions on costs.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) You're extremely conservative today. You might see new applications and uses for books. Be open to new ideas and ways of doing things. You're impressed with how others see you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Discussions with partners and close friends will be quite intense today. Emotional issues will be addressed. Don't let your fear the desire to be loved overpowering or controlling.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You're in for a highly productive day at work. You've got a clearer vision that are practical and realistic. You are very accomplishment oriented.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Your creative instincts are very sharp today. Make sparks. Be entertainment world. Your intuitive hunches are extra intense. A romance with someone powerful might materialize.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) This is a great day to study and learn. Attend seminars or workshops or at home. It's a great day to do research or make repairs. Form family relationships can be organized.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) You're extremely persuasive today. Your presentation will attract many. Because of this, it's very important to yourself, maybe more, and be less aloof.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) You might come up with some very original ideas for something that will be profitable. Don't be shy, you might come up with some way of earning money in a way of entertainment or on the side.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Your research into potentially any subject will yield interesting results because you have no preconceived notions. Your intuitions. Furthermore, you will not stop until you find them.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that each row, column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more programs or www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

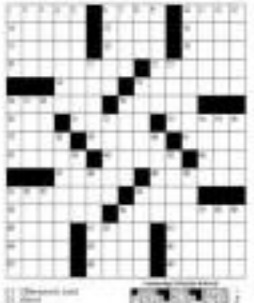
3	5	9	4	6	2	7	1	8
7	1	6	8	5	3	4	9	2
8	4	2	7	1	9	6	5	3
4	6	1	5	3	8	9	2	7
5	9	3	2	7	6	1	8	4
2	8	7	1	9	4	3	6	5
6	3	5	9	4	7	8	2	1
1	2	8	6	3	5	9	4	7
9	7	4	3	2	1	5	7	6

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

	6		4					
		7		6		8		2
	9					3		
			6		1			5
	4					8		
3			5		9			
	2					7		
1		6		9		5		
					3		9	

Difficulty Level ★★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Barbie auction

DAVAO DEL NORTE. Dolls dressed up by top Pinoy designers will be auctioned off in the "Pretty in Pink" charity event in Power Plant Mall in Rockwell Center, Makati, on Feb. 25, 3 p.m.

The Barbie Doll Fashion Show will be attended from Feb. 26-27 along with a painting exhibit of Fiona Amadeyan. The special Barbie section in for the benefit of Barkley Bella, Assumption 65, Bit Foundation, Gifts and Cranes and the Philippine Red Cross.

Sponsors are Smart Infinity, Swatch, Singapore Airlines, Caribbean Cruise, KIDDE, Wal, Single Shoes and Rockwell Land Corporation. Beneficiaries also thank Adhemar Graphics and the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Beauty brand holds fundraising run, feeding programs

In celebration of the centennial of International Women's Day, Mary Kay Philippines are physical and giveaway participants in the Mary Kay Global Month of Service on going until March 8. Part of this campaign is the 1-KG Be Kind Mile. Share the Love fun run on Feb. 27 in SM Mall of Asia. The beautiful (3, 5 and 10 km) will raise funds for a classroom and education women in the pediatric charity division of the Philippine Heart Center. Registration is ongoing until the day of race.

There will also be feeding programs in Bacolod, Cebu and Zamboanga for the benefit of the Missionaries of Charity Casa sa Gugma staff of Lucas, a home for the aged in Cebu. The team will also visit children in a Badjao community on Jolo, and street children in Zamboanga with the help of The Palms of God's Hands, a nongovernmental organization. Visit www.marykay.com.ph or call 856-4211.

Hair show and promo in malls

Hair and beauty expert Ricky Reyes introduces new treatment called Hair Stone through a series of mall tours. It is a heat-activated treatment serum for giving healthy hair which comes in violet (for reddish hair), yellow-orange (for copper), white (for black) and brown. Effects last for six weeks. Watch the demo on Feb. 24 at SM Megamall, March 4 at SM Manila, March 18 at SM Novaliches, March 25 at SM Calamba and April 1 at SM City North Edsa. A hair and fashion show with raffle will also be staged. Time hair cuts and analysis will also given. Call 727-7155 or 725-5449.

Pundaquit arts and music festival, summer workshop

Casa San Miguel (Creative Alternatives for Social Action in San Miguel) presents Pundaquit Festival, with the theme "Kultubilisa."

Concerts begin on Feb. 26 with "Bach-bachan: Back to Back Bach" featuring the Pundaquit Virtuosi, Casa San Miguel's resident chamber musicians, in an all-Bach program that, including the well-loved Brandenburg Concerto. Featured artists are pianist Jonathan Feldano and violinist Franz Ramirez.

The Philippine Madrigal Singers perform on March 11-12, "Oriental Voices" surveys the highlights of the Romantic period including songs of the era, namely, Beethoven, Brahms, Dvorak and Mendelssohn on March 27, violist Ben Kitagaki performs on April 15, he will join with the Pundaquit Virtuosi and Aedo Ethel Ibraos, Tambalan.

Rachel's Secret Last Words and Chess will be on April 22, and an Easter concert will be on April 24 featuring the Gilberto of Hope choral group. There are free musical series at the Plaza Nicolas Cruz and the Plaza Nicolas Cruz and the Plaza San Miguel.

The annual Summer Camp will be on May 1-28, with six-to-level on June 1-6.

Casa San Miguel's resident artists are photographer Paolo Ferreres, painters Benedicto Tolibo and Carlo Baluca Tes on wood arts, violinist Gigi Bitos and violist Ethel Ibraos for music, and Bel Pinoy Pics and Pati Lorie for creative writing. They receive 100 local talents practicing musical, visual arts, film and animation/modeling in preparation for participation in festivals and academic pursuits.

The series will close on May 30 with "the Soloists' Night with the Pundaquit Virtuosi directed by Olga Elkina and Jovidiono Peñalver featuring cellist prodigies Miguel Echivela, Juan Dorado, Yvonne Madarang, violist Joane Aquinay and violist Nehemiah Lopez to solo at Inquisitorial.

Concert tickets are at P1,000.00 each, including welcome drinks, gallerias, pre-show cocktails and post-concert dinner with the artists.

'Macbeth' in UP Diliman

"Scenes from Macbeth," directed by Alvin Jasmin for the UP Department of English and Comparative Literature, Palma Feb. 24 March 4, 7 p.m., and March 5-6, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., at the Media Center, Broadcast Communication Building, College of Mass Communication, University of the Philippines, Diliman. Call 8921-149 ext. 2, e-mail katrinadelin@gmail.com or call 9263486.

Dinagsa Festival in Muntinlupa

Muntinlupa City celebrates Dinagsa Festival—"Sto. Niño de Muntinlupa Fiesta on Feb. 26-27. Held annually on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, the celebration is a tribute to the city's patron saint. The event gathers ultimate, street dancers and marching bands to represent the festive traditions. Highlight is the street dancing parade with on-the-spot photo contest in the Muntinlupa Sports Complex on Feb. 26, 3 p.m.

The grand marching band parade and celebration, religious procession, fireworks display and candle-lit show will be at 7 p.m.

Call 8825-6614 or 0905-5825806 or visit www.muntinlupacity.gov.ph.

Search for HRM scholars from Magalang, Pampanga

The E. Aguilar Cruz Foundation is looking for hotel and restaurant management scholars for the next school year.

To qualify, nominees must be born in Magalang, Pampanga, financially unable to pursue tertiary education at Pampanga Agricultural College (PAC), with an annual family income of not more than P100,000, a high school graduate with an average scholastic standing of at least 90 percent or its equivalent, recommended by the mayor of the applicant's school.

Applicants must take PAC's college entrance exam and the average required for the Hotel and Restaurant Management course. They must not be recipients of any other scholarship grants or financial assistance.

Submit requirements by March 15. To be interviewed on grants for tuition, books and monthly stipend. Call Aida's Farms at (045) 865-1002 or (045) 980-6601.

Bench launches Freedom Scents

Front page E1

planning, anticipating—who can prepare yourself to more tomorrow's news bands: the Fresh Faces, the Best instrumentals and ready Bernard to open it."

The Freedom Scents launch is today, 7 p.m., at Dreamscape Activity Center.

MOET & Chandon's Olga Azarcon, Richard Alarcon and Charlene Joaquin

MEGA LV clients Anna Clarissa and Francis Villanueva

HARAYI Shangri-La GM Nate Klamser and LV's GM Edouard Fuore

METRO Society magazine's Michaella Torres, Mela De Luna and Charmaine Lucmayo

CAMILLE Reyes and Sigrid Villamil

SISTERS Dumuk, Yumi and Yuka Gubodoa

LV shows some love for a red Valentine's

A PRE-TEEN with successful Christmas event, world-renowned high-end brand Louis Vuitton Philippines held a successful Valentine's happening at Greenbelt 5 highlighting Vuitton's flagship summer limited-collection, flown in just for this event. As we listened in the store, we fondly felt the inspiration of "La Vie En Rouge," as in "The Life in Red," dubbings.

Florist Armando Garcia of Mabolo created colorful, eye-catching arrangements around the store. The chosen jewelry were

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH
Mauricio Arruche

sold by Louis Vuitton Philippines country manager Rhea De Vera-Aguirre, PR manager Veronica Mayuga-Santos, and, getting to just be the event, Louis Vuitton's Iris chairman GM for Micronesia Edouard Fuore, HR manager Radhonlee Sala and VP for client development Sangita Adam Hemrajani. Client shopper Ilaria David was also busy attending to the guests.

When it was a red channel affair, Makati Shangri-La Hotel served yummy finger food, with to-die-for chocolate-covered foie gras bonbons, wow!

Calligrapher Pia Hamoud wrote personalized love letters for every guest, and encircles and amendatus were held about Louis Vuitton's travel heritage, pehnagain.

Before the event ended, everyone was completely in love with the velvet monogram pieces for LV lovers, the Alma Antoinette and the Speedy Sprouse Valentine's collection.

Cheers to Louis Vuitton, dubbings, as we the loving hearts of their loving clientele, arlucyna?

Partying with the Metal Rabbit

As in the past, the elegant bluebirds Oriental, Manila, welcomed the Chinese New Year of the Metal Rabbit.

Standard bring-that mantra Joseph Chan, with his hosts Tim Yap and Susan Siddon, led guests through a night of traditional auspicious rituals, awesome fireworks and a memorable program, dubbings.

Soaring in the corner of Makati Avenue and Paseo de Roxas, guests greeted Minister Chan's Boa Shan ceremony, and the eye-dotting ritual of the magnificent dragon-and-lion dance.

The hotel's incredible 11th Chinese New Year celebration was supported by BMW, Infiniti (powered by Nissan), Armoury, 50, Greenbelt 5, Kingfisher, Hong Kong Express Airways and Mandarin Oriental, Sanya.

We'll bet Mandarin GM Hans Bradford, and his club team, including the dean of PRs Charisse Cruddon, treated an unforgettable evening in the tireless (mostly amazing red, natch) couldn't get enough of the grand fireworks display. Wow! to all! I can say, paiyenggeo. Makati's young and

LV HONORS and makers: HR manager Katherine Ada, GM for Micronesia Edouard Fuore, country manager Rhea De Vera-Aguirre, VP for client development Sangita Adam Hemrajani, and PR manager Veronica Mayuga-Santos

MEGA Magazine deputy editor Meryll Yap

BOBO Chua-Gu, Daphne Oseña Paez, Gemma Ely and Elizabeth Ying

CAROL Arenas, Edwin Medalla, By Dog (standing) Angelo Ong, Marlon Joseph Chua, Erlinda Chau, Czarina and Jay Cuenca

HIMAWAY Bayna, Chichi Lagorza, Pinky Prescott and Marivic Pasquez

SWAROVSKI Tolentino Gubat of the Swiss Embassy and Tina Calayco

LE HONEYS and guests Nelly and Fritzie Mayuga

LEE To-Ge and Tiffany Hanel Chong

DEBBIE Abrams and Pranee Lumen

THERESA and Samantha Go, Theresa Gonzales, Annie and Elsie Go

MARILEN and Dirie Tenserve

Guldenberg, who started the hotel's iconic celebration, [illegible] with Lorena Quintin (8) man Brad Geiser and wife Anne Mucharg were there, too.

Lester is to the Mandarin to always have the best welcome for Chi-Chinese New Year.

Swarovski helps save polar bears

In a continuing effort to help save endangered animal species, this year, Swarovski pays homage to the endearing Polar Bear "Nilo." Its beauty has been captured in a crystal sculpture made entirely out from its charming opaline, and incomparable shine.

This year, the Swarovski Crystal Society (SCS) looks to the theme "Nilo," which is translated from the local word for "ice," dubbings, is that dazzling crystal for the limited Edition 2011, superbly designed by Anton Heininger. It features a pair of polar (available separately) of layered moonlight crystal, with eyes and nose in jet crystal.

As in past years, high-end department store Rustan's presented the piece to a gathering of Swarovski followers that included the Swarovski Crystal Society (SCS) Ambassador Antoinette Pitlardo Bendoy and his wife Sue, and Swarovski's multi-brand sales manager for consumer goods and business Joy Young, with Rustan's top client asset Catherine Hwang, to boot.

"Founded by Swarovski in 1987, the SCS is now the world's largest association of collectors, with close to 325,000 members from 130 countries, brought together by a love of crystal, craftsmanship and creativity," said Joy.

The SCS also organizes events, trips, and get-togethers for its members, who receive dedicated Swarovski magazine four times a year.

Now, even I am starting my own Swarovski collection with those cute polar cubs, dubbings!

MANDARIN GM Hans Bradford, Rose Maria Arenas, Mandarin Rep. Rachel Serrano, Ria Suarez, Mytel Rep. Monique Lagdameo and Mandarin director of communications Charisse Cruddon

TUNTING Cruz-Romero and Mia Barrozo

ELIZABETH and Lily Chua

VAL Rivetworld and Leif Erik Hamilsaeter

JAMES Go, Hanny Crispo and James Ferrara

CHARITO Aguilar, Annie Barrera, Malcom Poole Santos

BETTY Chiong, Lorena Quirós and Werner Zirkelbach Salzburger

EDUARDO Puertas, Ruth Gutierrez, Heidi Ng and Bridgette Lorenz

SWAROVSKI Crystal Society members Miss Bobo and Ms Ely, Austrian Ambassador William Chorlet, Swarovski sales brand sales manager for consumer goods and business Joy Young, Rustan's top asset Catherine Hwang and Yan Dumlao

ENTERTAINMENT

Lito Ernesto G. Velarde

Cheer Factor

Texting, tweeting about corruption

"[T]'s HARD to be a totalitarian regime when people know so much. It's also hard to be a corrupt police officer when people can text and tweet about it." Bono told the Associated Press following U2's sold-out concert Sunday in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Mega finds a new diva

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

AFTER winning the ABS-CBN talent search "Star Power," Angeline Quinto took one of her prizes, a black SUV Hyper, on a victory ride to Bacnotan Church.

"I wanted to give thanks ... kahit medyo camera-shy," she ordained.

Angeline bested four other hopefuls (Mike Inkon from Cebu, K'La Rivera, Gerardo, Kristel Mabley, Davao, and Monica Young Joyce) on finals night at the Ynares Center in Antipolo last Sunday.

She told Inquirer that she will offer Thanksgiving Masses in the four churches she frequents—Bacnotan, Quinto, Santa Clara and Mamsang. Then she hopes to have her family's Imiquito home renovated: "I'll build a second floor; our area always gets flooded during the rainy season."

When she sang her winning piece, Jonathan Manalo's "Awitin ang Buong Gabay," she says her brother Brad cheering in the crowd. "I tried not to look at him; I didn't want to cry. I closed my eyes and thought of my mom."

Blossoming

Manchyrina, who's recovering from heart surgery, wasn't allowed by her doctors to watch the finals, either live or on TV. Angeline said she kept the contest a secret from her mom, in fact, until the first taping day.

When she tried out for "Star Power," Angeline recounted, "My waistline was 24 inches, [it's now] 27 inches. I kept exercising, and I went on a diet."

Sharon was relieved to Angeline's blossoming in the past four months. "Her transformation was remarkable. During the auditions, her posture seemed to need defiant. On finals night, she was confident and beautiful."

She advised Angeline to find her own voice, saying, "There are too many singers who want to sound like Regine Velasquez ... there should be only one Regine."

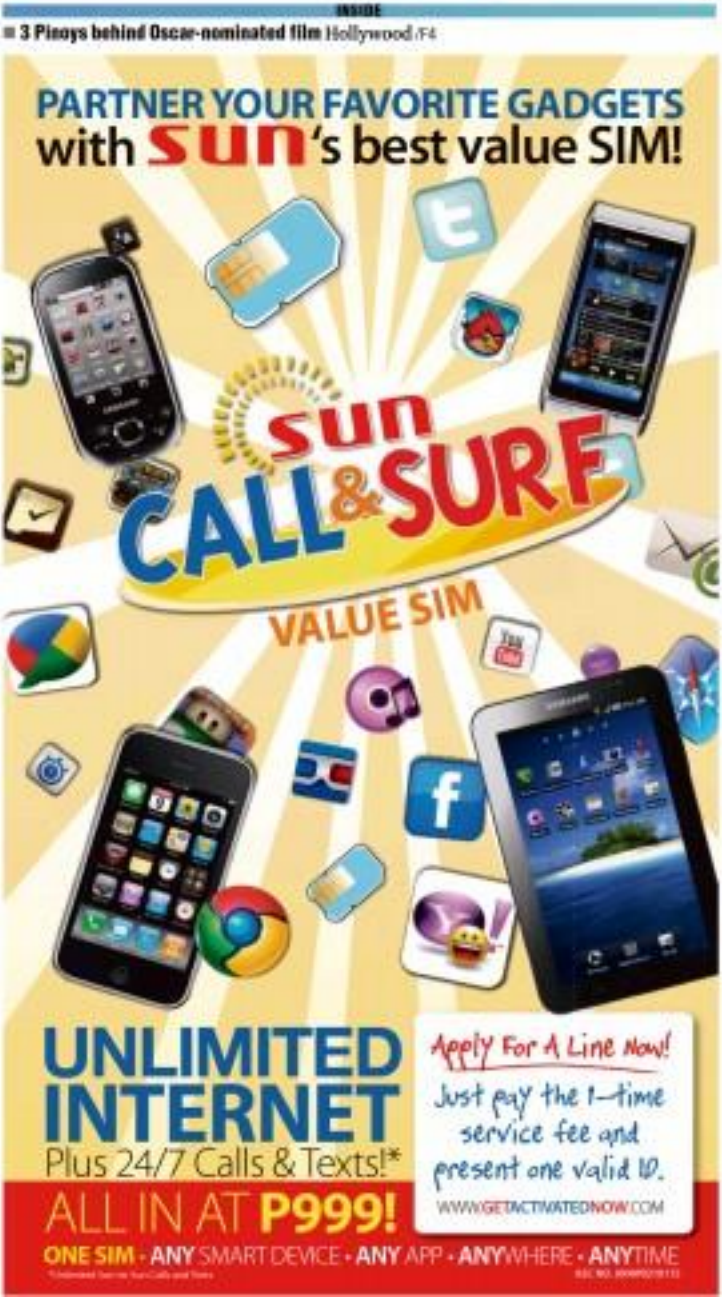
Evolving

Angeline, Sharon said, "listened to advice," though the show-pushed her out of her comfort zone.

"I wasn't as keen doing dance songs, but the shows allowed me to try different things. I'm still breathing and I'll always remember what Ms/m Sharon taught me: 'Never to forget where I came from, no matter how far they takes me.'"

INSIDE

■ **3 Pinoys behind Oscar-nominated film** Hollywood /F4



CHEER FACTOR

Larry King on his successor

LONDON...Former CNN talk show host Larry King on Friday said that his successor, British journalist Piers Morgan, had been "rewarded" to television audiences in the United States.

King hosted one in December after 25 years as host of "Larry King Live." The Ellison hosted seven network launched a large advertising campaign to publicize Morgan's debut the following month.

"I think they might have been better off naming nobody," King told the BBC.

King, 75, said he had not watched many episodes of the show and that Morgan, whose first guest was chat show legend Oprah Winfrey, seemed a "fine broadcaster." But he added: "One of the problems they did was overstuff it... He's certainly not loud. He asks good questions, maybe he interrupts a little too much at times..."

Winfrey told Morgan, "You're good" during the interview, but US critics have given the latest mixed reviews.

AFP

Alicia Mayer tells the nake

"MILF belongs in the morgue, not on your plate," says actress-model Alicia Mayer, who, at 52, still very much values the assured exclusion that now gets recognition at Jo Bergle for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta) Asks. The picture, shot by celebrity photographer Raymond Isaac for Possibilities, takes a closer view at the sweaty industry.

"The challenging Filipinos is really think about what 'meat' is," says Mayer. "Eating flesh means eating the corpse of a tortured animal who did not want to die. I'm encouraging kind consumers to give vegetarian luxury."

Mayer joins a host of international stars, including Pamela Anderson, Natalie Portman and Sir Paul McCartney, who have kicked the meat habit.

A recent United Nations report concluded that a global shift toward a vegan diet is necessary to combat the worst effects of climate change.

"The evidence is clear," says James Sabry, Peta Asia's vice president for international operations. "The best thing that people can do for animals, the planet, and themselves is to go vegetarian."

Opposites attract in ne

NEW YEAR tokens you have become the shows to beat on local TV programs and directors have been running up with different star combinations to give their productions the edge in terms of "screen chemistry." Some of the most effective ways to add to their programs' viewer appeal. Here are the new stellar team-ups luring in this season:

The "surprise" team-up of the season is the first time TV pairing of Regine Velasquez and Dingdong Dantes on "I (Heart) You, Pare." The stellar combination is particularly luring for Dingdong, who has been typecast in such roles as Marlon Antonio TV viewers.

Seen before, the actor has been given a relatively different character to portray, a sullen confused and shallow musician who's a far cry from the dashing Lando he usually (and all too predictably) essays.

First of all, his team-up with Regine's character catches fire, because they're such opposites...especially when she pretends to be a flaky pop musician.

The big challenge for their romcom show is to keep its gay action "flowing," which can alienate viewers in larger than Regine is actually a virtuoso, so romance will eventually hold viewers sway...or should it?

Let's hope for the stellar teamup of Jessica Sanchez and Aiza Garcia in the new telenovela "Green Rose," like Regine and Dingdong, they play opposites and blandly ask each other all...until "unexpected love" evolves their rich-poor differences and endless mood and tandem.

Granted, the "love-hate" and "rich-poor" formula are as old as the hills, but Jessica promises an intense, yet subtle, love-hate drama that helps freshen it up.

Barely, while Rose does her best to add to the story's edgy, screen-ripe appeal, it's Jessica who gives each

Tell-all Jesse

NEW YORK...The ex-husband of actress Sandra Bullock [illegible] has signed a deal to [illegible] his colleague of their marriage.

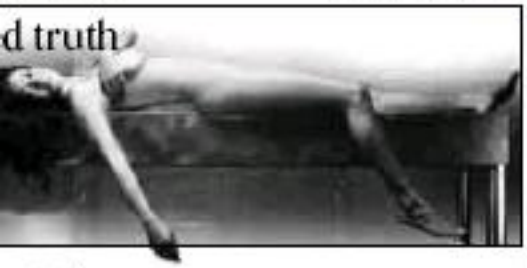
Jesse James, 43, has signed a deal for a tell-all book tentatively titled "Behind Bullock," that will be released later this year.

James, who married the Oscar winner in 2005 before his four-year marriage to Bullock ended days after the [illegible] he announced a love interest [illegible] in March 2010 for "The Blind Side." He later admitted cheating on Bullock and their divorce was finalized last June.

Last month the tattooed, motorcycle-riding James announced he was engaged to actress-artist and model Alexis Ste. [illegible].

They have been dating since [illegible].

"2010 was actually the best year of my life because I fell in love with my best friend. In retrospect, I'm not sure I loved [illegible]," James said in a statement to People magazine in January.



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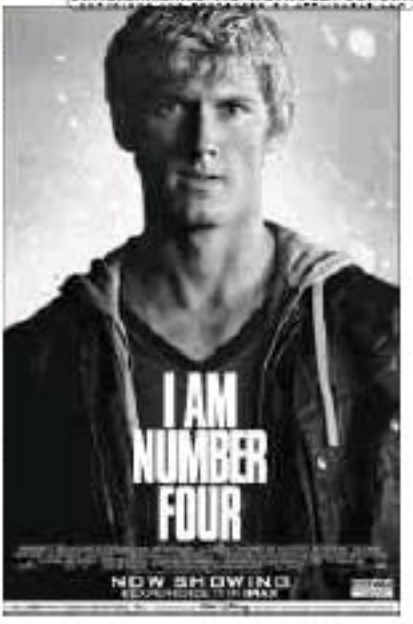

MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4

1. I AM NUMBER FOUR (2D)
2. JUST GO WITH IT
3. DRIVE ANGRY (3D)
4. BLACK SWAN
5. TRUE GRIT
6. UNKNOWN
7. FROM PARIS TO SAIGON
8. TRUE GRIT

GREENBELT 3

1. UNKNOWN
2. I AM NUMBER FOUR (3D)

RESIDENCES

1. UNKNOWN
2. I AM NUMBER FOUR (3D)
3. TRUE GRIT
4. DRIVE ANGRY (3D)
5. BLACK SWAN

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1. UNKNOWN
2. I AM NUMBER FOUR (3D)
3. DRIVE ANGRY (3D)
4. FROM PARIS TO SAIGON
5. BLACK SWAN

MAKATI CINEMA SQUARE

1. I AM NUMBER FOUR
2. BLACK SWAN
3. DRIVE ANGRY (3D)
4. UNKNOWN

MARQUEE

1. I AM NUMBER FOUR
2. DRIVE ANGRY (3D)
3. UNKNOWN
4. BLACK SWAN

MARIDEN MARKET

1. DRIVE ANGRY (3D)
2. I AM NUMBER FOUR
3. UNKNOWN
4. TEMPORARILY CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5. TEMPORARILY CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6. BLACK SWAN
7. UNKNOWN

TRINOMA

1. FROM PARIS TO SAIGON
2. TRUE GRIT
3. I AM NUMBER FOUR (3D)
4. DRIVE ANGRY (3D)
5. JUST GO WITH IT
6. BLACK SWAN
7. UNKNOWN

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MOVIE SPECIAL

MALL EVENTS

MALL SPECIAL

MARQUEE

Three Fil-Ams behind Oscar nominated film

LOS ANGELES—Three Filipino-Americans—a former "Eat Bulaga!" co-host, a linguist-native whose mom was in action, and a socially conscious filmmaker—have key behind-the-camera roles to "God of Love," which is considered a front-runner in the Best Live-action Short category in Sunday's Academy Awards.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD
Ruben V. Nepales

FILMMAKER Stephen Dypiangco literally conceives

Sukanor Wahnsley and **Gigi Dumont** are co-producers, and **Stephen Dypiangco** is the producer of marketing and distribution (P&D) of the nominated film, which Luke Matheny (Loren and Laren to...

"God of Love" is described in the production notes as about "a young singing duet champion, Diamond[...] who finds his prayers are answered—literally—when he receives a request-a-song package of passion-inducing duets." It is Luke's thesis film for the graduate film program of the New York University (NYU). The black and white short won the gold medal in the 2010 Student Academy Awards and various prizes in the film festival circuit.

Both Stefanie and Gigi are based in New York. Stefanie, who told us the reason the "Sinigang" on "Eat Bulaga," was the assistant manager of Vilma Santos and John Lloyd Cruz's "In My Life." Born in Manila, where she spent her growing up years from 3 to 18 years old, Stefanie is the daughter of Eric's Bistro Kapitan and the late Gerry Salonga. Stefanie will be a crowd standout for Stefanie—Gerry reportedly told her that someday she would make it to the Oscars.

Gigi was born in Baguio to Bonnie Dumont and Manolita Minarin Buenaventura Borja, whom she describes as a former movie actress in the Philippines. Gigi, who was raised in Hawaii, is married to Gigi Dumont's screen name was. With another NYU filmmaker, Clarissa de los Reyes (who helped in the lighting of "God...."), Gigi is producing and directing a documentary on Filipino nonviolent activist Lolo Tarrayo.

Stephen, an IA native, is the son of Oscar and Lucila who are from Laguna and Pampanga, respectively. His other current marketing and distributing projects is "Dina na Lan Pareyes," the new documentary of acclaimed filmmaker **Mark Meiler**. Stephen, who directed "Made in the Emma," a feature-length documentary, has finished shooting a documentary on his search for his Filipino ancestry, "Home (Lolo Tarrayo)" (www.homeunknown.com).

Below are excerpts from our e-mail interview:

In his article on Deadline magazine Deadline's chief, critic Pete Hammond forecasts that "God of Love" will win in the Oscars.

Stefanie Wahnsley (SW): I used to read every blog and article that came out but now they all read the same except for the risk of sounding trite, I feel like we have already won. It's not every day that a student film makes it this far!

Gigi Dumont (GD): Wow. It's enormously gratifying that so many people, Pete Hammond included, have had such a positive reaction to "God...." We never expected the film to go this far. I knew it was a good, solid film in many respects, but these films are used primarily as calling cards. We hoped for one of the top awards at the NYU Dox Box festival, but this is something else entirely.

Stephen Dypiangco (SD): The response from fans and critics to "God..." has been incredibly encouraging. I hope that translates to success on Oscar night.

How did this happy coincidence that three talents of Filipino descent get involved with "God of Love"?

SW: It was all just completely coincidental. The irony is that I took the bus! Cincinnati, but joined the most Filipinos! I can't wait for us to meet in LA over a smoking plate of lechon.

GD: When Luke asked me to come on as the lead producer on the film, one of the first things he said to sell the project to me was that another person he wanted on as being on board was me from the Philippines. I had never met Stefanie at that point but because the New York Filipino filmmaking community is so tight, we actually knew a lot of the same people.

Stephen came on as the P&D after the film was finished. He's the one who first realized that there are of the four producers are Filipino. (The fourth producer is **Ryan Gilbert**.) We did have one other Filipino on set, Clarissa de los Reyes helped us out lighting department. She actually shot Luke's second year film at NYU, "Forever."

SD: I think it was meant to be. Luke was one of the very first people I met in film school. We worked on many projects together. Sometimes circumstances paved the way for us to all work together.

LUKE Matheny is "Good Love"

What are your own expectations on Sunday night?

SW: I have no idea what to expect, which is part of the thrill.

GD: I really don't know what to expect. I probably will be telling myself to "remember everything." Who knows if this will ever happen again?

SD: My stomach will surely be in knots. I can't even begin to imagine how nervous I'll be.

Who gets to go with Luke Matheny to the Academy Awards?

SD: Initially, Luke was only given two tickets to the ceremony, but fortunately, he was able to secure four more tickets last week. As of now, fellow Pinoy producers Reginald Hudlin will be attending with our cinematographer Bobby Webster, editor Levi Ahrens and cyrpsonic Sasha Gordon. I'm keeping my fingers crossed that we can get more tickets so I can join us.

Can you share some of the highlights of making the film from your perspective?

SW: When working on a tight deadline, with a smaller budget, you are really forced to think laterally to come up with creative solutions to various production problems. Everything on the set went very smoothly. It helped that we loved the script and had a great crew bringing it to life.

GD: The highlight for me was getting to work with Luke from the beginning. Luke was the most organized, focused and articulate director that I had worked with. Anyone he was also going to see on the film, he drew storyboards, scanned and input them into an editing program, recorded all of the dialogue and cut together an animatic of the film in the production and the creative team could see what he was looking for.

ABIGAIL native Gigi Dumont, co-producer of the live-action short film

many people, especially in all these film festivals?

SW: It's clever, sweet, charming and incredibly entertaining. Also, it's kind of hard to not like something that hooks you and tug-heartstrings to end.

GD: I think "God..." resonates with people because it is first and foremost a good story with a character we, the viewers, can not only identify with, but want for. What's more, we

SD: Personal P&D highlights from this wild Oscars experience include "God..." playing in over 100 theaters across the US with the other Oscar nominated shorts, the creation of the director's bio and entertaining trailer and having enormously impressive conversations about our Oscar publicity campaign.

Why do you think "God of Love" is resonating with so

CO-PRODUCER Stefanie Wahnsley, former co-host of "Eat Bulaga!"

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E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_0505@yahoo.com

ENTERTAINMENT Living Stars

Editor Ernesto D. Velarde

HEARD

2010/2011: Mars Ravelo's on this year's list of stories Gokongwei has an influenced by romance of pop music superstar Ms Lady Gaga, Nicki Minaj and now Britney Spears: "You will see more architectural styles—an expanded shoulder, a pronounced sleeve. The stronger power woman has emerged, and you cannot ignore that trend." Reuters

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Amy Perez hopes ex-hubby files for divorce

Amy with sons AG, 12, (left) Kyle, 7, and partner Carlo

By Nestel R. Cruz

TV HOST Amy Perez says AG, her 13-year-old son with estranged husband, musician Bric Fortuna, doesn't mind changing his last name.

"He has no objection to being a Castillo," Amy said between sobs. Radio sportscaster Carlo Castillo is Amy's current boyfriend. They have a 2-year-old son, Jesse Kyle.

"All already considers Carlo his dad," Amy said during a media gathering for her early morning show "Sapol sa Singko," on TV5.

INSIDE
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'Style need not cost you'

From page G1

Scents

Bradoway Spare: anyone can just a few months ago, it's a little spicy but this citrus y. I like it, fresh and not too strong. I hate the scent of musk.

Before I turned 30, I wasn't interested in scents. The first bottle of cologne I bought for myself was Jasmine Hannah's. It has citrusy cancel—morning, when you sweat, the scent becomes stronger.

I wear Bulgari Tuxurus to go out to lunch, maybe to meet a friend. It's also a maker for cool bottle designs.

Kenzo Flower by Man also works for women. It has a powdery, floral scent, like you just stepped out of the shower.

This is my favorite formal-event cologne—Gucci by Gucci. It's something I'd use

'Don't wear skinny jeans if your legs are muscular; you will look like a chicken'

if I feel like I gotta get things done with my date tonight (laughs).

Aqua di Gio is very popular. It smells fresh, and comes in I think gift-dig this.

I know quite a few people who use Bod perfumes. It's very heavy. I also like the bottle. I like the clean, man-on-the-moon types.

Eyewear

Almost everyone wears sunglasses or eyeglasses. Ray Ban Wayfarers. I bought mine in the States. It has a bigger frame than those sold in Asia. My dioptres have gradient lenses.

I can wear them in classes.

My favorite is the Bulgari. It has a nice, clean look. Like the ray pens.

I call these my G. Men Cyclops shades. These are Oakleys special edition. See from a store on Broadway in High Street. I did an event there, and after I got paid, I went straight to the store. It cost bad.

Timepieces

I have a Tech solidarius that except fold over underwear, so. It's Swiss-made, really expensive at P70,000. But I bought it on sale.

This is a replica of a Hugo Boss. I got this for P20,000. You need a million pesos to get the real one.

Diesel is very de- possible. My brother gave me one. It looks expensive, but mine cost around P8,000.

Bags

Button bags are used by everybody. I use plug my headphone into mine, so I don't have to hold my music player. It also has a laptop holder.

I got my traveling bag from Black my mom's hometown. It cost me only around P200 but I bring it everywhere.

Amy...

From page G4

For the change of surname, Carlo has to legally adopt Ali, Amy said. "We may need his father's consent. One of these days, we will see a lawyer."

She continued, "Carlo and I are hoping [that] Brix will file for divorce, whenever he is now." Amy's earlier plea for annulment was denied by the Supreme Court. Last she heard, Brix was based in California.

Ali last spoke to Brix in 2005, said Amy. Father and son were supposed to go out, but the date was cancelled.

Amy is thankful that Carlo understands what Ali is going through. In fact, she said, Carlo's whole family "accepted me and Ali like their own."

Ali takes the role of big brother to Rylo seriously, the proud mom said. "He is always worried [if] he comes home from school to play with Rylo."

Amy and mom-in-law Brenda Tio-Ali said Marrio no- dance here the segment "Love Uncut" on TV5's morning news magazine show.

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SALT a pair of shades that fits any occasion, says Ms. Princess.

HIS picks: TechnoMarine watch and Hugo Boss replica.

'Style need not cost you'

By Marinell R. Cruz
Photos by Andrew Tablan

A PIECE of advice from Filipino-American model Ian Rubiroso: "You don't need to spend a lot to look good."

Ian, 22, says he seldom wears his flashy Supra rubber shoes that cost him P10,000. He also thinks his P60,000 TechnoMarine watch is "terribly overpriced."

"Always be practical," says Ian, last seen in the reality show "Survivor Philippines: Celebrity Showdown" on GMA-7.

Ian was born in Germany to an American father and a Filipino mother. He first collected attention when he joined the local talent search "Teamwork." He will soon be in the cast of the sitcom "Titser."

"Clothes don't make the man," he tells Living Asian. "Just stick to those that complement your body structure."

A PLAID long-sleeved shirt under a dark blazer is his favorite get-up for clubbing.

Footwear

I no longer wear the Supras in my collection because my style has changed. I just like my shoes plain now.

I also have Skyrupa...in different colors. They are super expensive; I kind of regret having bought them. I bought those from Japan that I can wear with anything: formal or casual, for only P3,000.

Tops

I wear a lot of Top Man, People Are People and Zara, sometimes Paul Smith. I like plain, long-sleeved shirts. I also like blazers and simple, European designs. I like them in gray, dark green, dark brown.

TUMI's Bottom bag is named for some boasting, but has room to accommodate a laptop bag.

I always seek the help of store personnel. I buy so much from Top Man that I've been given a celebrity discount. The clothes are comfy, but still better than the institution stuff, which lacks after washing.

Sometimes I get rugged—I use hoodies or bombers. I like wearing them halfway off. I've also worn leather jackets.

Bottoms

I have a few pairs of Top Man cutoffs that I wear with plaid shirts. I also like Pseudoppe jeans. I compare them with the Zara jeans and find that they look almost the same.

Don't wear skinny jeans if your legs are your color; you will look like a chicken. I used to wear super baggy pants. I am embarrassed to think about that now.

PUBLIC RELATIONS SOCIETY OF THE PHILIPPINES

46th ANVIL AWARDS

February 15, 2011
Ateneo de Manila University
Rizal Library
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Quezon City

THE DAY OF JUDGMENT

'My choice mirrors enduring value, which once planted continues to produce good fruits, for the good of the community.'

- Supreme Court Chief Justice Renato C. Corona

By Fr. Jerry Orbos
Communications Director
Archdiocese of Manila

The final deliberations of the judges for the 46th Anvil Awards of 2011 took on a decidedly judicial ambiance when it was held at the Supreme Court compound on January 12, 2011. This was in deference to the distinguished Chairman of the Board of Judges for this year, the Honorable Renato Corona, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. This was the third time that a Supreme Court Justice would head the Anvil Board of Judges; the previous ones being Chief Justices Artemio Panganiban and Reynato Puno.

The deliberations for that day involved the final selection for awardees for the Public Relations Programs—On a Sustained Basis; Financial or Specific Stakeholders; and Specialized Public Relations Projects, One Time Basis. Based on previous experiences, such a day could be a long-drawn out affair, and this day could prove longer than usual because of the larger than ever number of entries.

Any first-time at the Supreme Court compound can be intimidated by the Grecian atmosphere of massive columns and high ceilings, and feel the weight of the law. The Justice Lounge where the deliberations would be held, was not a typical lounge-y room with leather sofas and a side bar, but rather featured a draped tabled with an imposing chair at the head. As the Anvil judges trickled in their eyes wandered at the set up and realized that only "serious deliberations" would take place.

The task at hand officially began when the Honorable Chief Justice took his place at the head seat with Butch Raquel, PRSP President as his right, Arnie Campos, chairman of the Anvil Board Awards to his left and the coaching for the final deliberation. The accounting firm, Ramon E Garcia & Company CPA, briefed the judges on the formulas that were used in arriving at the standards scores. This manner of computation was introduced by last year's chairman of the Board of Judges, Cayetano Dolloreaga, now the director of the National Economic Development Board, (NEDA). It formed in a correction for the judges' individual tendencies in giving scores - some all high, others all low - such that no entry would be disadvantaged or advantaged because of these. The youthful accountants effortlessly explained the technical aspects in understandable manner.

There were more than 250 entries, it was decided that a cut-off score be set and the number of winners for the Awards of Merit and Excellence be determined. Fortunately judges' scores and no-show-phone disappearances, except for a few, and all the winners for the two categories were chosen. First time judge Bobit Avila from Cebu pointed out the need for a more "national" perspective for the PR programs, noticing a number of PR programs crisscrossing from and being implemented in Metro Manila.

Each PR Program Category produced an entry with an exceptionally high score, with each group of judges hailing for its choice for the Grand Anvil Award. It was decided that a judge representative for each category should "defend" its choice. Atty Arnel Casanova spoke out for its outstanding progress in the Specialized Public Relations Projects - one time basis only, a disaster response initiative featuring the Ondoy typhoon, that drew immediate and massive participation from the citizenry. Journalist Jarius Bondoc presented the merits of their member one choice in the Public Relations Program directed to Specific Stakeholders, a program aimed at generating appreciation for one's product, and at encouraging excellence and dedication among them. For the Public Relations Program—on a Sustained Basis, Professor Jaime Ong claimed have a Sesame Company need its talent and reach to convey good governance and responsible citizenship while at the same time generating increased excellence there.

The "persuasive" having presented their stand, it was up to the Chairman of the Board, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to give the final verdict. While he praised all the three outstanding entries for their grand scope and effort, his choice, he said, mirrors enduring values, which once planted continues to produce good fruits, for the good of the community.

PR practitioners know that with most clients the best program is the one which has a good return for the money. The Anvil Awards show that the best PR programs show the good that money can do.

Maraming salamat JOLLY TOY SCOUTS!

Smiling faces everywhere at the grand bash!

Jollibee, JFI and Jollibee Foundation executives turned over a symbolic check worth P10 million to Deped Secretary Bro. Armin Luistro as a symbol of the company's commitment to build 40 classrooms beginning 2011.

Jollibee thanks all the generous Jolly Toy Scouts who made the 16th Bituin ang Pasko a success. From the 40 participating schools and 10 corporate partners, volunteers, to all the loyal Jollibee customers across the country, you all paved the way for a brighter and happier Christmas for many Filipino children.

With your active support and contributions, we were able to collect over 200,000 toys and books last year. We also raised a total of P12 million from the sales of the Jollibee and Friends dolls which – together with the additional P8 million donation from the Jollibee Foundation – will be used to build 40 classrooms beginning 2011.

By continuing to take part in Jollibee's Bituin ang Pasko, you are helping ensure that more and more Filipino children will feel special every Christmas time while giving them reasons to hope for a brighter future.

Hala sa inyong mga kaibigan sa Jollibee, maraming, maraming salamat po!

Kids enjoyed the company of Tito Boy Muñoz!

Jollibee Tomasinos gave their time and talents to bring cheer to the less fortunate.

Congrats to Ken Aguirre who is voted the most number of toys and books he can among his partner schools!

Jollibee Lovely gave the kids a brighter Christmas!

As the Anvil's young and eager Jolly Toy Scouts pledged to bring holiday cheer to their fellow children.

PUBLIC RELATIONS SOCIETY OF THE PHILIPPINES

Since 1957

As the Anvil continues to be the lenith mark of excellent Public Relations practice in the Philippines, we, in the Public Relations Society (PRSP), are so inspired to hold the 46th Anvil Awards.

Effective and meaningful PR programs and tools are implemented annually by the most successful corporations and institutions in the country believing that their public's decisive move that sending their products and services or advocacies. Somehow they actualize their PR by giving back, by being relevant, or having a conscience and a caring heart. These, with the end in view of enhancing their image and reputation, while running more goodwill along the way.

The year that was saw us riding on the wave of change as we were in the polls to elected to our political fibers. Add to this our belief to the Filipino that in announcing as we add meaning to the PR programs we offer our stakeholders. Thus, this year's crop of entries is a mixture of new and outstanding ideas on how to allevi ate their plight.

The challenge to make the Anvil Awards the premiere award-giving body when it comes to PR is daunting. From the time the Anvil Awards committee reviewed its rules, to the final deliberations among the jurors, there is no let up for PRSP to make it credible and prestigious. Indeed, the one that makes the Anvil a cut above the rest is its roster of distinguished jurors. Their credentials are impeccable. Their opinion is worthy of consideration. In the final analysis, our distinguished jurors and winners paved the way.

Another factor that makes the Anvil standout is the quality of PR programs and tools that keep on improving through the years. It has gone beyond doing good and telling it well. In while philanthropy is still around, we note are how innovative relationships are now aligned with a strategic communication strategy.

May I then congratulate the winners of the 46th Anvil Awards. To the years Anvil Awards committee and the officers and directors of PRSP, my sincere gratitude for the trust and support. To our esteemed jurors, you have made this year's Anvil a most significant and memorable one, you deserve a salute. For all of us in the Public Relations practice and profession, may we continue to build a better world. To God be the glory!

JOSELY LUCERO-TAN
Chairman
46th Anvil Awards

I congratulate the honorees of the 46th Anvil Awards Gabing Buenggit," and I applaud the Public Relations Society of the Philippines for consistently hosting this prestigious recognition.

The PRSP plays a decisive role in empowering the citizenry by distinctly commissioning useful information to the people. The growth of the fast-moving communications industry has contributed significantly to public awareness, especially on an individual sense in this time of national transformation. It is also gratifying to know that the Anvil Awards recognizes PR programs that especially benefited our rural districts and our marginalized countrymen. This recognition will no doubt motivate the value of responsible corporate citizenship, as well as to highlight effective communications campaigns being implemented by government and civil society.

Indeed, the public relations industry specializes in influencing people. I trust that your organizations will continue to uphold your mission to generate public confidence through high ethical standards.

May your dynamism in working with our government be an inspiration to others. Together, let us be illuminated by the daylight of transparency and integrity as we take the struggle and righteous path to reclaim the glory of our nation.

FRANCISCO CHIU NOEL
Senator
Republic of the Philippines

Board public relations director James S. Cuenco said, "We believe PR should be practiced to serve the public interest, to develop mutual understanding between organizations and their publics, and to contribute to informed debates on issues of today."

No doubt this upside well of how the men and women of the Public Relations Society of the Philippines raise their win to our society, as attested by the annual Anvil Awards which gives recognition to, among others, the most creative, strategic and effective ideas and projects that help spur national growth.

Winning an Anvil has been every PR practitioner's wish – a badge of honor that gives them the bragging right to say that their PR program and tool not only efficient in achieving their goals, but are also recognized by a multi-sectoral panel of communication experts.

I commend the officers and members of the PRSP, the organizers of this year's Anvil Awards, for their commitment to the improvement of the public relations profession in this country, contributing to an overall way to the country's progress and stability.

I congratulate all the winners and participants of this year's competition, and more power to PRSP.

Mabuhay!

ROBERT COJUANGCO
Senator

We commend greetings to the men and women of the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP), as you hold your 46th Anvil Awards ceremony.

The Anvil Awards has long been considered as the "Oscars" of the local public relations profession. As you find dreams, the Anvil stand out and even recognizes outstanding public relations programs, practices and tools both in the private and government sectors.

As Chairman of the Board of Anvil, I congratulate be winners and participants of this year's competition. I am particularly pleased to see that many entries from democratic social responsibility in the way of life for many organizations/entities.

There is a growing recognition of the vital role of public relations in strengthening our people's sense of unity and civic participation. I have few hope that the winners inspire all of you to work harder in pursuance of your advocacy for a more enlightened and more empowered pro-active citizenry.

ARMANDO C. DOROMAL
Chief Justice
Supreme Court

There exists in us an extraordinary sense of pride every time the Anvil season comes along. Not only because of the impressive PR campaigns, tools and programs that we witness but more so because of the knowledge that every year, we are a great deal of companies and individuals with increasing interest and participation in the public relations industry.

The entries for the 46th Anvil Awards mirror the Filipinos' renewed energy highlight the positive development in our economy, showcase the fast transformation of various media platforms but most of all, they yield the passion and commitment of the PR professionals.

We congratulate this year's awardees for raising the bar of excellence, making greater heights of rewarding feeding up their well and challenging themselves to create a bigger difference in the field of public relations. May their accolades be ever driving force in pursuing the ideals of PR practice in the Philippines.

Our grateful nod goes to the board of Anvil for contributing give their time and effort in carefully choosing the most deserving recipient for this year. To all the participants, we thank and salute you for sharing the fruits of your hard work and courage inside with the entire industry.

Congratulations to the 46th Anvil Awards committee for upholding the high standards of its competition and delivering outstanding results.

RAMON JACINTO SOLER Mabuhay ang PRSP!

RITCH L. RIGUAL, APR
President
Public Relations Society of the Philippines

Manila Doctors Hospital does it again!

Two more Anvils in two straight years.

Anvil Award of Excellence

For its intensified campaign to increase the level of awareness of Manila Doctors Hospital's employees and stakeholders on environmental care, sustainability and for the best environmental management practices.

Anvil Award of Merit

For successfully tapping the Chinese market through a wide array of internal and external public relations and communication initiatives, resulting in a significant increase in Chinese patients who patronize the hospital.

Our Commitment to the public affirmed by all the four Anvil Awards won.

Our Commitment to quality certified by Accreditation Canada International, ISO and Philhealth as Center of Excellence.

We do all these because we want to deliver world-class care within your reach.

MANILA DOCTORS HOSPITAL
World-Class Care Within Your Reach

Moment of Truth

By Bert P. Pacquio, APO
Former President, PIDP

Having served as Chairman of the Anvil Awards Committee once, and as a member of the Board of Jurors of the Anvil Awards three times in the past, I have grown used to long deliberations before a consensus on the winning entries. Awards of Excellence and Awards of Merit — as earned, it is a long and tedious session oftentimes marked by emphatic arguments and lively exchanges of opinions. Considering that the jurors are distinguished practitioners in their respective fields, it is always an acute theory exercise of patience and by necessity understanding and open-mindedness. One is tempted to describe it as agony — not because it seemed like eternity to reach a convergence of views and judgment but because, on a lighter note, lunch is not served until the deliberations are over. The refusal, however, is nothing compared to the entries power mahogany to relenting the entries during the Christmas holidays. I myself had to go over the entries three hours at three times. The first time was for a quick, cursory look at the 60 entries; the second , for a diligent assessment; and the third, for one long, hard look at the possible awardees. The last was the most demanding because in some categories, the scores of the highest-ranked entries were so close, the wonder was: Judges, likewise, three-time member of the panel, expressed her sentiments after the Chairman of the Anvil Awards Committee welcomed and thanked us for spending time for the rather uncomfortable task that, hopefully to the larger, judging would not be during the Christmas season. It's wishful thinking, of course, since in the past forty-six years, Anvil hearts jurors get their share of the entries early December not too long after the October deadline. For technical reasons, the screening by a separate committee composed of selected members of the Society.

Thus, on January 11 this year, I prepared myself for a long grind that could last until past noon. I promptly acceded to the Anvil Awards Committee's invitation to partake of snacks and refreshments. This was the final step of judgment for the entries vying for the awards. It was also a moment of truth: for the jurors who would finally come to know how their respective choices would fare.

This time, to my pleasant surprise, turned out to be entirely different. The jurors for the various Tech categories (there were another set of jurors for Integrated who came in the morning immediately adjourned after his become an effective formula that covers the scores of the judges into a rating system that balances the inequities in judging. In the past, low scores netted below that could have been normal passing grades while high scores were close to the perfect marks. The others, fortunately were justifiably moderate: low scores were not as distant from the high marks. (This is in reference to an individual judge's scoring vis-à-vis entries in one category.) Less were members of the Screening Committee would be disturbed that some of the entries they recommended as possible winners to the Board of Jurors were rated below average.

The convenient formula works to balance the ratings. And the jurors preserve new wisdom in the system and seem unanimously adopted it. It made an easy time for them to agree on the cut-off marks, counting only those who survived the cut-off would be considered for the awards of Excellence and Merit. They practically breezed through the process of determining the winners except for a brief exchange of a few (about three) entries which did not meet the cut-off but which to the opinion of some members of the panel, deserve to be recognized as either merit-bets or commendations. After a meeting by the panel of Juror The jurors had been grouped according to the specific tools they judged), all three were deemed worthy of recognition. (This is not a new occurrence. In the past, some entries were given a second look by the jurors en banc and ultimately conferred awards.) The entries that were adjudged the best of the crop are truly outstanding, bona fide the new make it were just as noteworthy for their capability and consistency.

With the business of judging now and no more serious matters to discuss, the jurors continued conversing with each another in an atmosphere of congeniality, setting aside their differences in views and opinions. In a more humorous, warm and friendly setting, hands was finally served. One more responsibility remains to be fulfilled by the judges though, that is to grace the awards Night when their choices are finally revealed and honored.

Metrobank Group shares bags of blessing to 10,000 families

Photo shows Metrobank Group Chairman George S.K. Ty and Metrobank Foundation Executive Director Aniceto M. Sobrepeña.

Amidst the revelry and festivities in line with the celebration of the Chinese New Year, more or less the reality that there are many underprivileged Filipino families living in depressed areas which do not have access to basic social services.

Thus, last February 3 to 6, 2011 the Metrobank Group embarked on a gift-giving drive on select communities, municipalities cities and provinces in the country. Dubbed as the "Bags of Blessing", the bags of goods benefited 10,000 less fortunate families all over the country including those who were severely affected by natural calamities. The Metrobank Group mobilized its branches in key areas in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao for this gift-giving project.

The Metrobank Group allocated a total of P10 million worth of donation packages for the Chinese New Year gift-giving activity, in a simple turnover ceremony held at the Metropolitan Theatre. Metrobank Group Chairman Mr. Ty gave the donation on the basis of pledge to President Benigno Aquino III.

"The Metrobank Group wants to take the first step in elevating this normal celebration as an opportunity to share the fruits of our successes in the industry to our underprivileged Filipino brothers and sisters in the country," says Metrobank Group Chairman Mr. George S.K. Ty.

Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) secretary Dinky Soliman shares, "The DSWD lauds this initiative of the Metrobank Group. This is the first time that a conglomerate owned by a Chinese-Filipino is celebrating the Chinese New Year with a nationwide gift-giving. It is our wish that other companies will also follow the footsteps of the Metrobank Group and initiate the kind of activity in the future." The Metrobank Group engaged the cooperation and support of the social welfare departments and its provincial offices in conducting the activity.

Distributions for Metro Manila were already held in the cities of Manila, Quezon, Makati, Mandaluyong, Marikina, Pasig, Taguig, Pateros and Caloocan. The DSWD Metro Manila Field Office NCR, Philippine National Police (PNP), Philippine Army, Philippine Navy, Philippine Air Force, Philippine Marines, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine National Police Academy, Philippine Public Safety College, Philippine Military Academy, Philippine Marine Corps Training Center, Philippine Coast Guard Training Center, Philippine Navy Training Center, Philippine Air Force Training Center, Philippine Army Training Center

Excerpts from speeches during the 46th Anvil Award

"Many of you consider community relations as a first-line responsibility. I am glad that there is now a heightened awareness and sensitivity for more responsible behavior from big business as reflected in the increased coverage of all the entries we reviewed.

From the traditional corporate philanthropy of giving fish to those who have less in life, corporate social responsibility, or CSR as we know it, has evolved to become more sustainable and stakeholder specific to promoting programs related to environment, community development, job generation and entrepreneurship.

Adopting CSR as part of one's corporate model is truly laudable and heroic undertaking. By harnessing its inner creative outlook to the game of the public relations industry, the PRSP's message is that we can still be good citizens and be good neighbors, too.

In the end, the is what (tonight's occasion) is all about: a ratcheted to the lenses serving for excellence of the Filipino and his willingness to use it for the common good."

Supreme Court Chief Justice Renato C. Corona

"All of us here are "stakeholders," so to speak, all of us have interests, one way or the other, in tonight's unfolding events. Such is the scope of public relations, a pastime dating from the 20th century.

The PRSP's have as plus rightful experience in PR programs and tools which create a comprehensive, long lasting influence in the life of nations: their economic, their politics, their diplomacy, education systems, social policies, and a myriad of other dimensions of daily living.

Today, we are no longer what will this award be without PR, because we already know the answer.

I have been with PRSP and the Anvil for some years, and I can say that, year after year, the entries have their own printed uniqueness relevant to the needs and priorities – the role of history – of particular times. But they have one thing in common: they are all great ideas, great works, of a great campaign."

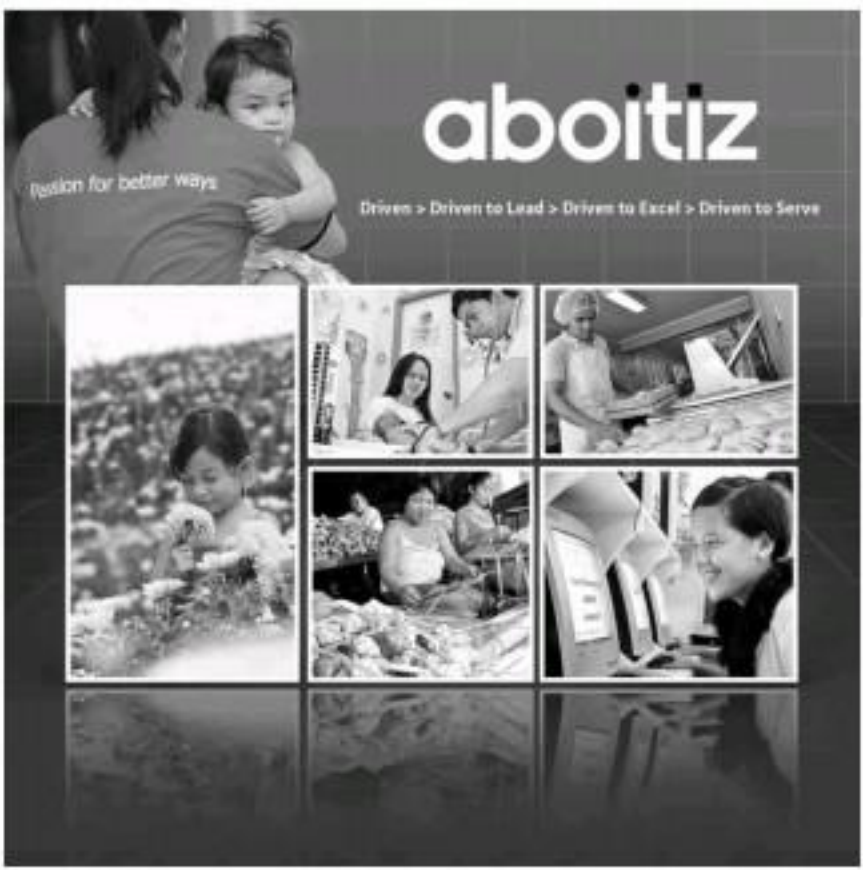
Ed Rivarez, APR
President, ESA Consultants
Advisor, 46th Anvil Awards

"Effective and meaningful PR programs and tools are implemented annually by the most successful corporations and institutions in the country, believing that their publics deserve more than sending their products and services or advocacies. Sometime, they consider their PR by giving back, by being relevant, or having a conscience and a caring heart. These, with the end in view of enhancing their image and reputation, while earning more goodwill along the way.

The challenge to make the Anvil Awards the premiere award giving body when it comes to PR is daunting. From the time the Anvil Awards committee reviewed its rules, to the final deliberations among the jurors, there's no let up in PRSP to make it credible and prestigious. Indeed, the one that makes the Anvil a cut above the rest is its line up of distinguished jurors. Their credentials are impeccable. Their stature is worthy of emulation. In the final analysis, our distinguished man and woman jurors have the final say.

Another factor that makes Anvil standout is the quality of PR programs and tools that keeps on improving through the years. It has gone beyond 'doing good and telling it well.' The white pitchumbuyo is still around, we now see how innovative understandings are now aligned with a company's business strategy."

Arnie T. Campos, APR
President / CEO, ArniePR / J T Campos Corporation
Chairman, 46th Anvil Awards



SM PROGRAM ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS

SUPERMALLS CARES
LET'S DO OUR SHARE

THE BEST IN PUBLIC RELATIONS COMES FROM THE HEART.

"Care" is multi-faceted. It describes both emotion and action. It is easy to care. But acting on that "care" is where most people fall short. At SM Malls, we push ourselves, every day, to turn the care we feel for our customers into action that is directed towards making life better for them. We keep striving to go beyond just "caring."

Happily, while the ultimate control of our customers is the best reward, it feels good when we are recognized for the extra effort we put into caring for them.

In 2010, the SM Cares campaign was awarded the Anvil Award of Excellence in the service for Persons with Disabilities in SM Malls.

The SM Program on Disability Affairs is designed to help enable customers with special needs, and make their shopping experience easier, friendlier and more enjoyable. Proceeding from the company's vision of making SM Supermalls "the Mall for All", the SM Cares program was created to focus attention to the needs of the most-often neglected sector of our society. It includes making the malls accessible by removing all physical barriers, like installation of handicap ramps and elevated walkways, parking, accessible phone booths and exclusive comfort rooms. But this is just the easy part.

The program goes beyond physical accessibility. It has transformed its front liners such as the janitors, security guards and employees as advocates of giving special attention to customers with special needs. They undergo regular seminars and orientations conducted by PWD advocates from the different sectors of disability. It covers giving assistance to physically challenged and those with learning difficulties.

Once again, the SM Program on Disability affairs elevated its efforts to the advocacy. It has strengthened its programs to include changing the attitude of the community towards PWDs. SM malls' one and only venues in showcasing the abilities above the disability of PWDs through shows and exhibits. Special events such as "Angels Walk" by the Autism Society of the Philippines, and the "Happy Walk" of the Down Syndrome Association of the Philippines are regularly held in SM Malls Nationwide.

The Sensory Friendly Movies continuously touch lives of families of children with Autism. This is a regular program of SM and Autism Society of the Philippines, wherein a scheduled film is shown exclusively for persons with autism and their families, where cinema plot lights are turned on and the sound is turned down.

And one of the most effective ways of changing the attitude of the community towards PWDs is "Photography With a Difference", or simply PWD. The SM Program on Disability Affairs partnered with master photographer John Chua together with various Photography Clubs nationwide, Canon Philippines and different PWD Organizations to come up with various photography workshops for children with disabilities and their families. The photographs are then screened and exhibited in SM Malls where customers get to see their abilities and emotions in interacting with their families or different environment. The outcome is indeed touching lives through photography.

SM Cares has so much planned for Persons with Disabilities. The "PWDs on Lanes" has made it possible for PWDs to play bowling with special assistive devices. Similarly, the "PWDs on Ice" offers freedom for the physically challenged to experience gliding on ice.

At SM Supermalls, we are constantly finding means and creating ways to make the mall experience an absolute delight for every single customer. This ANVIL Award has encouraged us to try even harder, care even more, and turn that "CARE" into more passionate action.

PUBLIC RELATIONS SOCIETY OF THE PHILIPPINES

FOR INQUIRIES: PLEASE CALL 936-8388 local 133 OR VISIT www.smsupermalls.com

GRAND ANVIL

2010 TEACHERS' MONTH CAMPAIGN

"My Teacher, My Hero"

Metrobank Foundation, Inc. / YMC Steering Committee

For successfully launching a month-long campaign aimed at celebrating teachers and the crucial role they play in Philippine education and promoting the growth and development of the teaching profession in the country. Over the last 3 years, the campaign has grown into a movement that encouraged and influenced different sectors of society and people, young and old alike, to publicly express their appreciation and gratitude to parents and guardians, through living examples as well as school campaigns, media partnerships, grassroots rallies, business establishments and through print, broadcast and online media works. The YMC award will propel consciousness among the general public to pay tribute and express in their everyday lives in classrooms, communities and workplaces across the nation, with advocacy campaigns launched during the proclamation of Metrobank Foundation Search for Outstanding Teachers on September 3, 2010 the Campaign seeks to create greater awareness and encourage wider participation in the celebration of UNESCO declared World Teachers' Day every October 5.

BRONZE ANVIL

LUMPIANG HINIHIMANG

GMA Network, Inc.

For collectively promoting the 12 typical areas of national pride through a series of visuals that holistically address to Philippine history.

PINOY UMAMI: THE HEART OF PHILIPPINE CUISINE COFFEETABLE BOOK

Ajinomoto Philippines Corp.

For uniquely chronicling Filipino taste and tradition in modern culinary expression, highlighting customs and traditions as seen in our culinary heritage and presenting rich visual illustrations of the Philippines through the lenses of the Asia Photographers of the Philippines, thereby contributing to enhancing the image of the Filipino and the Philippines.

10.10.10 RUN FOR THE PASIG RIVER

Kapit Bisig para sa Ilog Pasig - ABS-CBN Foundation, Inc.

For mobilizing in a massive awareness campaign to save Manila's treasure river involving hundreds of thousands of participants and thereby breaking the Guinness World Record on the largest human activity held thereby drawing in the world that the Filipino people actively commit to effecting the turn of environmental degradation through their participation in the event.

THE ANVIL

This ANVIL is the symbol of the creative process as mentioned in the Philippines, as defined by a distinguished intellectual jury, to outstanding public relations programs and tools designed and implemented in the past year. The Anvil Awards competition is conducted annually by the Public Relations Society of the Philippines.

The Anvil symbolizes excellence and quality. Its award is given only to the deserving winner. There are four Anvil categories:

A PHILIPPINE PR HERITAGE ANVIL
ANVIL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE
BRONZE PHILIPPINE PR ANVIL AWARD
FOR THE GRAND PHILIPPINE PR ANVIL AWARD

VISION

Professionalism in the practice of public relations

Recognition of rights to freedom and the attendant duties in exercising such freedom

Social responsibility

Protection of the environment, concerns and awareness of public relations and communication.

MISSION

Elevate the quality, standards and professionalism of practice of public relations and communications in the Philippines and in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Anvil Award of Excellence - PR PROGRAMS CATEGORY

Anvil Award of Excellence PR TOOLS CATEGORY

46th Anvil Awards BOARD OF JURORS

Anvil Award of Merit - PR PROGRAMS CATEGORY

Anvil Award of Merit - PR TOOLS CATEGORY

PUBLIC RELATIONS SOCIETY OF THE PHILIPPINES

2011-2012 PRSP OFFICERS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ADVISERS

From left, Treasurer - Ma. Yolanda C. Crisanto, Head, Corporate Communications Division of Globe Telecom, Inc.; Past President - Jonas T. Campos, APR, President/CEO Jonas PR | JTCampos Corporation; President - Butch S. Bagsal, APR, VP for Corporate Communications of GMA Network, Inc.; Internal Auditor - Claire D. Papa, Senior Manager for External Affairs of United Laboratories, Inc.; VP for Internal - Jorge Miguel T. Marco, APR, Head, Corporate Communications of Ayala Land, Inc.; Director - Toby V. Nebbia, Communications Manager of Chevron Philippines Incorporated; Director - Anne Giselle Y. Camus, APR, Senior Manager for Corporate, Brands & Communications, Shell Station Support Department, Pru Life U.K.; Adviser - Marianito J. Edrada, Jr., APR, Public Relations Consultant, Office of the Governor of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas; VP for External - Ramon N. Idanta, Head, Public Affairs Group of Smart Communications, Inc.; Director - Jamil F. Fernandez, Corporate Affairs Manager of Mead Johnson Nutrition (Philippines), Inc.; Secretary - Edgar U. Timbangcas, APR, Communication Services Manager Corporate Communications of Nestlé Philippines; and Adviser - Eduardo S. Alcaraz, APR, Public President of ESA Consultants; Not in photo are: Adviser Elpi O. Cuna, Jr., APR Consultant of San Miguel Corporation

2010-2011 PRSP OFFICERS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ADVISERS

From left, VP for Internal - Noel Villarino Ramquillo, APR, Communications and PR Consultant; President - Butch S. Bagsal, APR, VP for Corporate Communications of GMA Network, Inc.; VP for External - John V. Rapa, APR, Division Head, Corporate Brand and Communications of Bayan Telecommunications, Inc.; Treasurer - Rizza R. Austin, APR, Senior External Relations Officer of Asian Development Bank Innovations Past President - Jonas T. Campos, APR, President/CEO Jonas PR | JTCampos Corporation; Internal Auditor - Claire S. Mantaja, Senior Manager for Corporate Communications of Pfizer Philippines; Director - Catherine Salonga Ortiz, Managing Director, Bang PR Philippines, TMDT Southeast Asia; Director - PRSP Adviser - Marianito J. Edrada, Jr., APR, Public Relations Consultant, Office of the Governor of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas; Fellie B. Rosales, Head, Advertising and Events, Corporate Affairs Department of Land Bank of the Philippines; and Jorge Miguel T. Marco, Head, Corporate Communications of Ayala Land, Inc.; Not in photo are: Secretary-Anne Giselle Y. Camus Senior Manager for Corporate, Brands & Communications, Distribution Support Department, Pru Life U.K.; PRSP Advisers - Eduardo S. Alcaraz, APR, Public President of ESA Consultants; and Elpi O. Cuna, Jr., APR Consultant of San Miguel Corporation

THE 46TH ANVIL AWARDS COMMITTEE

(Standing from left) Angeline G. Dalde, CONSULA; Dulce Fausto-Bayhon, APR, Lopez Group Foundation, Inc.; Edgar U. Timbangcas, APR, Holcim Philippines; Jonas Campos, APR, Jonas PR | J. Campos Corporation; Felina B. Rosales, Land Bank of the Philippines; Leandro S. de Guzman, APR, Maestro, Inc. and CF Philippines; Eduardo S. Alcaraz, APR, ESA Consultants; Giovanna V. Fontanilla, University of the Santo Tomas; Bernard G. Bajaman, APR, Nestle, Inc.; and Claire D. Papa, United Laboratories, Inc.; (Seated, from left) Rizz Villarino Ramquillo, APR, Communications and PR Consultant; Ma. Yolanda C. Crisanto, Globe Telecom, Inc.; Jaji B. Bascon, Total Commitment Events Management; Jerryll F. Fernandez, Mead Johnson Nutrition (Philippines), Inc.; Carmencita C. Arre, APR, Philippine Business Corner and Stella F. Cuaresma, Media Mean; (Not in photo) Geraldine C. Marshal, Switzerland Global Services; Bernard V. Santiago, United Laboratories Corporation; Jesulo C. Rosa, Ayala Corp; and Carlo Perez-Steen, Cagayan Holdings Corporation.

Junior Anvil Award

is given to the winning PR programme of the Students' Brand: Pick competition held September of 2010 chaired by PRSP Officers Ms. Chito S. Manlapaz of Pfizer, Inc. Officially known as the PRSP Inter-School PR Excellence Competition, which aims to raise the bar of excellence in PR planning among students, submitted by students from various colleges and universities in the country. Remarkable in their impact and relevance to their target publics based on the case study, "Repositioning Brand Philippines in the 21st Century" Target Audience: Internal (whole country). External (Philippine Embassies). Three teams received the Junior Anvil. Champion is De La Salle University - Manila for the program BWAHALAO MO, PILIPINO! KAMBA KA BA EH?! First runner up is De La Salle University - Dasmariñas for the program SIBAT PINOY, SIBAT!; Second runner up is Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Marikina for the program SHINE! SHINE! PINOY.

Champion - Team De La Salle University - Manila with (fr. Jaime S. Ding, APR, Alcuin photo) presenting their award to PRSP President Butch S. Raquel, APR and (second from right) Chairman of 2010 PR Education and Student Affairs Committee Chito Manlapaz.

First runner up - Team De La Salle University - Dasmariñas "Sibat Pinoy, Sibat!" with their Professor Raul S. Ramirez, APR and Communication Club Resource Barrow Kaffe. Also in photo are PRSP President Butch S. Raquel, APR and Chairman of 2010 PR Education and Student Affairs Committee Chito Manlapaz.

Second runner up - Team Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Marikina "Shine! Shine! Pinoy.". In photo, members of the team with their adviser Professor Raul S. Ramirez, APR, PRSP President Butch S. Raquel, APR and Chairman of 2010 PR Education and Student Affairs Committee Chito Manlapaz.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

INQUIRER · LANDBANK

Shell: The Future Energy Company Wins Four Anvil Awards of Excellence

A leader in providing energy solutions not just for today but for the future, Shell delivers the world's energy needs through technology and innovation applied in the right way: with respect for communities and the environment.

Shell's business principles include an unwavering commitment to contribute to sustainable development, providing energy in economically, environmentally and socially responsible ways to help people thrive and prosper while caring for the planet.

Harvesting four Excellence Awards from this year's prestigious Anvil Awards by the Public Relations Society of the Philippines, Shell companies in the Philippines is proud to present its exceptional sustainable development programmes and tools that demonstrate the company's dedication to quality communications and to community empowerment and nation-building.

SHELL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Movement Against Malaria Programme
Award of Excellence – PR Programmes Category

Movement Against Malaria Programme (MAM) is a malaria prevention and control programme implemented by Pilipinas Shell in 83 provinces nationwide through its social investment arm Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI). Aside from the recent Anvil recognition, MAM also received an Award of Excellence in the Concern for Health category of the 9th Asian Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Awards. Asia's premier Awards programme on corporate social responsibility, an Award of Merit in the 10th Philippine Quill Awards of the International Association of Business Communicators, and a United Nations (UN) Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Winner Award from the UN Millennium Development Campaign.

Shell Eco-marathon
Award of Excellence – PR Programmes Category

The Shell Ecomarathon Asia (SEM) is Shell's landmark campaign on fuel efficiency which debuted in Asia on July 2010. A unique car marathon that measures distance rather than speed, the SEM presents an opportunity for Filipino engineering students to engage in friendly competition with their Asian counterparts while utilizing their capabilities, talent, and resources to create an innovative, fuel-efficient car prototype and promote the message of fuel-efficiency and sustainable mobility solutions.

Shell National Students Art Competition
Award of Excellence – PR Programmes Category

The Shell National Students Art Competition (SNAC) is an annual undertaking in support of the country's visual arts, through a competition focused primarily at encouraging creativity among students. Started in 1921, many of its past winners are now recognized as part of the country's elite circle of visual artists. On its 43rd year, the SNAC continues with its commitment to spawn young artistic talents into becoming tomorrow's leading visual artists.

Shell Art Collaterals, "Nostalgia Isla Filipinas"
Award of Excellence – PR Tools Category

The Shell Art Collaterals, with theme "Nostalgia Isla Filipinas", commemorates the glory of the Philippines' rich culture and heritage through paintings of young artists who won in the SNAC's Calendar Category. The paintings were featured in the Shell 2010 Corporate Calendar and Corporate Giveaways also as a way of communicating Shell's lasting commitment and valuable contribution to Philippine art.

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

We Built This City
SM City North EDSA
25th Anniversary Celebration

SM's first mall. SM City North EDSA was opened in 1985 during a time of great political and economic turmoil, yet its success was a milestone in the country's shopping center history. We Built This City, a television commercial developed for SM City North EDSA's 25th Anniversary captures – with its catchy tunes – how SM Founder and Chairman Henry Sy Sr.'s vision together with the unbridled enthusiasm of its customers, tenants and employees made SM City North EDSA a mall of firsts and forever changed shopping in the country.

The campaign – launched in 2010 on television, radio and in print ads and supplements in the country's top newspapers and magazines – is hooked on Starship's hit 1980's pop song "We Built This City." The song made it to number one on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100 in November 16, 1985. 1985, coincidentally, is also when SM City first opened.

Central to the campaign is a 2-minute television commercial – now making its rounds on You Tube – that showcases SM City's different wings with a historical timeline charting when each was opened: City Center in 1985, The Block in 2006, the New Annex in 2008, and both the Interior Zone and Sky Garden in 2009.

In a nutshell, the movie-in-miniature tells the story of how so much life and living has gone on, and continues to go on, in the mall. It does this with vignettes that focus on what the mall has meant to different people, edited to SM City's version of "We Built This City." Young fashionistas shopping "till they drop" at the Department Store, a mother shopping for fresh fruit at the Supermarket, a family enjoying each other's company and good food at the Food Court, an elderly couple remembering that this was "where they fell in love," a young couple eagerly testing the furniture at Our Home, gorgeous foreign ladies enjoying world-class shopping at The Block, a young girl excitedly getting her first laptop at The New Annex, and more. All this is linked together by a human chain that circles the mall, bringing home the story that SM City North EDSA is the mall for everyone.

The commercial wraps up with an invitation to "Celebrate with Us" and ends with a giant 25th Anniversary cake and an explosion of fireworks. The same story is carried throughout the rest of the campaign. The campaign's message rings loud and clear: In 25 years, SM Supermalls "built this city," and for every Filipino today... "This is our city – SM City!"

Awarded
Philippine Retailers Association's
Shopping Center of the Year 2010

FOR INQUIRIES: PLEASE CALL 929-3641 OR VISIT www.smnorthedsa25years.com